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THE TIMES

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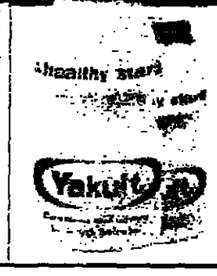
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Frank Longford on Erskine Childers
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Foodoceuticals: designer dishes that protect against disease
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APPOINTMENTS
18 PAGES
of top jobs



Loyalty card plan to counter Tesco

'Trolley wars' dent profits at Sainsbury

BY SARAH BAGNALL

J SAINSBURY was forced to count the cost of the supermarket "trolley wars" yesterday when it reported a £100 million slump in profits — the first fall in 22 years.

With Tesco reporting surging sales to reinforce its position as supermarket top dog, Sainsbury's is to revamp its marketing strategy, introduce a "loyalty" card and even launch its own credit card and financial services.

The chairman, David Sainsbury, admitted that the group had failed to employ enough staff to give customers the services they expected, and also spoke of "ineffective marketing" and "lapses in product availability".

Industry analysts were more blunt, saying the family business had fallen behind because of arrogance, complacency and an over-reliance on its own brands that meant customers could not find the household-name products they wanted.

Over the past two years, Sainsbury's share of the food retail market has been eroded while Tesco and Asda have consistently enjoyed healthy sales on the back of a string of novel marketing and customer service initiatives.

Last year Tesco overtook Sainsbury for the first time in 15 years to become the country's biggest supermarket chain, and last month it announced that increased sales had led to a 15 per cent surge in profits. By contrast, Sainsbury reported yesterday that profits had fallen from £809 million to £712 million — and even that performance was better than the City had expected.



Almost half of the decline could be put down to the cost of converting the recently-acquired Texas do-it-yourself shops into Homebase stores. And the "mad cow" disease crisis was said to have cost the group some £9 million. But the main problem was the core supermarket business and the profit slump would have been even worse had it not been offset by improvements from Homebase and the Shaw's food chain in America.

On the stock market, relief that the figures were not as bad as had been feared and news about the planned loyalty card helped to lift the shares by 15p to 372p.

The decision to introduce a customer card follows the success of Tesco's Clubcard, which was dismissed by Mr Sainsbury as an "electronic Green Shield stamp" on its launch last year. In spite of his derision, Sainsbury introduced its own Savercard in some stores and will now launch another version across the group — although details were not disclosed yesterday.

Mr Sainsbury said: "I think we will now have the sort of scheme we would like to have." He said Sainsbury had been determined to bring out a card which rewarded loyalty without high administrative costs "which the customers would have to bear". The company will also issue its own credit card, with a possible view of offering holders a range of financial services.

The initiatives will be part of a new strategy based on an extensive marketing review conducted after the appointment of a new marketing director last year. It has already recruited another 5,000 staff to pack bags and offer other services, which the company says has led to a significant improvement in customers' perceptions.

Mr Sainsbury said: "In recent years some of our competitors have narrowed the general gap in ratings. Until recently, our marketing approach has not been effective in countering this trend."

Mr Sainsbury has already said that he is to relinquish his position as chief executive by the end of this year; yesterday he announced that David Bremner of Watson & Philip is to be chief executive of the group's non-food businesses.

King of the grocers, page 5
Tempus, page 28

SIMON WALKER



Ice skating champion Christopher Dean and his wife Jill in their Buckinghamshire garden after his debut as a ballet choreographer. Review, page 39

Labour plans to help working mothers

BY JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR is drawing up ambitious plans to make it easier for mothers to combine a career with bringing up a family by offering financial incentives to bridge the two.

Tessa Jowell, Shadow Minister for Women, is negotiating with the Shadow Treasury and Employment teams on a package that is expected to be included in Labour's manifesto programme.

Labour is hoping to address key areas where professional women who also want to be parents can suffer. It intends to provide help for women who want to take time off to raise a family without jeopardising their careers.

Mothers are expected to be targeted in the first phase of Labour's plans for individual learning accounts in which the Government gives £150 if the employee puts £25 into his or her account. Labour would encourage women to put money into their accounts while they are still working so that they can draw on the state contribution when they want to brush up their skills during their career break.

The party is already looking at ways of helping mothers with very young children with child care. But Ms Jowell points out that the problem also arises with mothers with older children who also face frustrations in going back to work. She argues that employers should be much more flexible in giving mothers time off when necessary.

Ms Jowell is also drawing up a package to prevent mothers from being forced back to work earlier than they would have liked because they need the money. She is said to be looking at ways of giving mothers financial help at times when they are out of work. One possibility is to ensure that income is spread more evenly over the women's working life, taking into account times when someone might want to work part time, or stop work all together.

In a Fabian summer lecture in London last night, Ms Jowell said: "In balancing home and work, the questions often asked are about the extent to which women want to work and the extent to which they have to work to supplement the family income." She made clear that while parents were responsible for bringing up children the state should play a part in helping them to that successfully. She said: "It is no good just moralising about parenthood and doing nothing to support parents in discharging their responsibilities."

Ms Jowell hinted in her speech at the need to make maternity payments continue over a longer period to allow mothers who wanted to to stay at home with their young babies. "For many mothers the ending of maternity pay after 14 weeks means that they are forced back to work much earlier than they want."

Brown's welcome, page 11

Move to lift beef by-products ban

A plan for lifting the worldwide ban on British beef by-products has been put forward by the European Commission. But there were strong doubts that it would be accepted by member states.

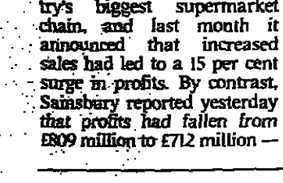
The Ministry of Agriculture said it was "an encouraging step" but cautioned against too much optimism. Britain would be required to comply with strict processing conditions ..... Page 4

Mother jailed

A woman with a personality disorder which leaves her emotionally stunted was jailed for five years for killing one of her daughters and poisoning another. The judge said he was sentencing her with a heavy heart because there was no other course available to him .....Page 3

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Guillemot takes high dive to record beneath the sea

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

NEARLY 300 feet under the North Sea a robot camera surveying around the base of the Ocean Nomad oilrig picked out a sleek black and white shape sweeping past.

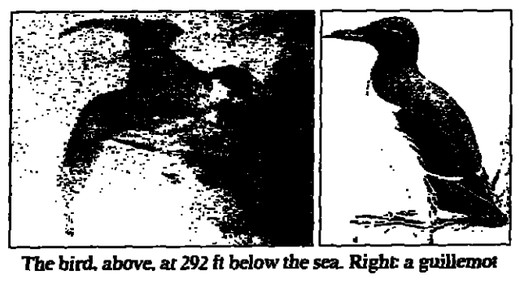
The astonished camera operator believed at first he had seen a penguin thousands of miles away from its Antarctic home and called his colleagues over. "We pointed out that it couldn't be," said Douglas McCall, a surveyor for Shell.

"However, when we saw the video there was no doubt that it was a bird. We had no idea what type, but later we found out that it was, quite incredibly, a guillemot."

The bird, filmed 100 miles northeast of Aberdeen in the appropriately-named Guillemot Field at a depth of 292 feet, can be seen clearly on the video for around 30 seconds, swimming around in circles.

Graham Garden, of Stolt-Comex Seaway, who was controlling the camera from the rig's control room, said yesterday: "I have never seen anything like it at that depth. You see fish, and the occasional shark. But I have never seen any bird life".

The crew, who were mooring a marker buoy, believe the bird might have been attracted by the lights of the small submarine. "It was swimming about like a fish, perfectly happily, which to us was phenomenal when you consider the pressure at that depth," Mr McCall said yesterday. The cameras later picked up what may have been another guillemot flashing by.



The bird, above, at 292 ft below the sea. Right: a guillemot

The guillemot's achievement was hailed yesterday by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. Ian Bainbridge said: "This is amazing. The deepest we have ever known a guillemot to dive to is 197 feet. Humans at the same depth have to hide in diving bells or reinforced suits, but this bird is obviously quite comfortable on its own."

Guillemots have paddle-like wings so they can "fly" underwater, but have not lost the power of flight, except for during a few weeks in the summer when they grow new feathers. The birds, which average 16 inches in length, dive to depths of 100 to 150 feet to catch small fish and sand eels.

The guillemot's dive was almost modest compared to previous achievements by members of the auk family, which have reached 630 feet.

Other animals have exceeded the depths. An emperor penguin has been recorded as diving 1,584 feet and a leatherback turtle at 3,973 feet. But the star performer was a bull sperm whale which, in 1969 is claimed by scientists to have dived well over 10,000 feet.



Redwood urges ministers to hold EU referendum

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND ANDREW PIERCE

JOHN MAJOR'S hopes of restoring Tory unity in the wake of the local election setback were dented yesterday as it was revealed John Redwood is urging ministers to consider holding a referendum about Britain's future in Europe on general election day.

The former Welsh Secretary and party leadership contender is expected to suggest the idea to ministers in the hope of deterring Sir James Goldsmith from putting up candidates against Tories at the next election.

Mr Redwood, who has held private talks with Sir James, is confident if the Government accepted the idea the billionaire financier would wind up his Referendum Party. Voters would be asked whether they wanted to remain part of a "common market" or a superstate.

But as Mr Redwood disclosed his go-between role, and the eight former whipless Eurorebels promised to force a Commons vote on a referendum, the Tories were plunged into a new bout of Euro-warfare when a leading pro-European accused sceptical colleagues of being "lunatics".

Edwina Currie, the former minister, told a European Movement press conference: "Certain members of the party who gave press conferences this morning have taken leave of their senses. The Eurosceptics are completely loony." Britain, she said, had no choice than to be in Europe, "the greatest association of trading members this world has ever seen".

Labour will capitalise on the continuing Tory divisions by forcing a Commons vote next week on the common agriculture policy. Government whips had hoped to avoid conflict by holding the debate on a technical motion and allowing Tory MPs not to vote. But Labour will now stage a vote to try to bring Tory Euro-sceptics on side and highlight a split.

Mrs Currie said her Eurosceptic colleagues damaged the country's position, weakened its credibility and made it much more difficult for ministers to get what Britain wanted out of the union.

Attacking the call for a referendum on Britain's EU membership, she said: "The Eurosceptics went too far this time. It's one thing to demand a referendum on a single currency. It's quite another to demand one on whether Brit-

Continued on page 2, col 6

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Volcanic eruption leaves victims ashen-faced

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Today is Europe Day and the prospect did not please David Evans, MP, at Foreign Office Questions yesterday.

The sight of Mr Evans (C, Welwyn Hatfield) hyperventilating and picking his teeth in preparation for his Question No 13, about Europe, would dismay all but the most valiant.

But it did not dismay David Davis, the Foreign Office Minister of State, to whom the awesome task of fielding Mr Evans's question had fallen. Sparring with our European partners in Brussels can hold no terrors for a minister who has fielded an Evans question. By the time the House reached Question 11, Mr Evans had extracted whatever strands of British beef were left in his teeth and began tugging urgently at his nose hairs.

Throughout Question 12 the hyperventilation intensified as the great pink mound of moral horror and Cockney wisdom they call "the Member for Welwyn" heaved in its place like a cartoon volcano waiting to blow.

"Question No 13: Mr David Evans," called Madam Speaker. Davis, cowering before the storm, read out his prepared answer. Evans blew. It was all the usual stuff: "... Commissioners in Brussels telling us, die in and die out, what we can and can't do ... And that lot over there" — pointing at the Labour Party — "siling under the banner of the skull and crossbones ..." and so on.

Evans's climax was a bit strong, even for Evans. Europe, he bellowed, should be "TOWELLED TER GIT STUFFED!" This was delivered at the maximum volume of ten Evanses on the Evans scale (the preferred measure of parliamentary noise). The Speaker blanched. At this volume the Serjeant at Arms's sword sets up a sympathetic vibration, stray hair ends on the clerks' wigs singe and Miss Boothroyd's tights ladder spontaneously.

The minister, David Davis, ventured the thought that in Europe Labour might sail not under the skull and crossbones but the white flag, and Mr Evans looked pleased with this suggestion. "If I were a braver man," continued Davis, "I would wish Janice" — Mr Evans's wife — "a Happy Europe Day tomorrow." Fortunately he was not a braver man.

More timid than Davis, but intrepid still, was Anthony Coombs (C, Wyre Forest). The prospect of Europe Day displeased him too, but something he had found out displeased him more. Did the minister know, he asked David Davis, "that Mr Hair Fischler" was to open the Royal Agricultural Show? Or was it Mr Hare Fischler?

A moment's reflection suggested that Mr Coombs was referring to Herr Franz Fischler, the European Agriculture Commissioner. Coombs wanted Mr Herr disinvited forthwith. Davis ducked the question but congratulated Coombs on his research.

Few Euro-sceptics were there to hear. Tory Euro-sceptics move in a swarm these days. Communicating, perhaps, by combat-style walkie-talkies, they visit — or avoid — parliamentary occasions together, for safety. Like locusts they blot out the sun, arriving within minutes of each other.

Departing they rise as a flock, leaving one insect behind to report. With Nicholas Budgen (C, Wolverhampton SW) on sentry duty, the rest of the flock had flown, no doubt to pursue the struggle by other means.

They may have given up on Westminster for the time being but one day they will swarm and attack the Foreign Secretary. If Malcolm Rifkind thinks throwing the locusts a few leaves from time to time will placate them, he deludes himself.

MIKE WILKINSON



Eric Milligan, the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, who will fly the European Union flag from the city chambers

Controversy over Europe Day shows no sign of flagging

BY JOANNA BALE

IN case it should go unnoticed, the citizens of the European Union celebrate the great alliance today. The Scottish Secretary, Michael Forsyth, unwittingly gave Europe Day its biggest ever publicity puff last week by refusing to fly the Euro-flag in protest at Europe's ban on British beef. Until then, it was a safe bet that most people had never heard of it.

Mr Forsyth was backed in the Commons yesterday by the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, who insisted it had been government policy for many years not to fly the flag and said it would not be flown from public buildings in Britain today.

The Lord Provosts of Glasgow and Edinburgh, however, said the flag would fly from their city chambers and appealed to companies to follow their lead. Europe, they said, played an important part in Scottish commerce.

May 9, the day after VE Day, was designated Europe Day in 1985 to mark the anniversary of the late French



Rifkind: insists flag will not be flown today

foreign minister Robert Schumann's 1950 call for France, Germany and others to combine their coal and steel manufacturing to avert the risk of another war.

The European Movement admits that it will be a low-key affair compared with other countries in Europe, but it has sent posters to libraries and schools to drum up interest.

Some schools in Kent are having a video link with pupils in Helsinki and 100 Euro balloons will be released in Richmond. Memorial services for war veterans will be held at Westminster Abbey and the German Lutheran church in Knightsbridge. The highlight of the celebrations, however, will be a diplomatic reception at the Mayfair Inter-Continental Hotel, where Yves de Silguy, European Commissioner for economic and monetary affairs, will give a speech on the single currency.

In the rest of Europe, the day will be celebrated with much flag-waving fervour. In Germany, they have an entire *Europa Woche* with thousands of organised events. A 180-page book, with telephone hotlines, lists the events with forewords by the heads of Germany's 16 states.

In Spain, where there is no anti-European lobby, the flag will flutter over government buildings and official ceremonies will mark the day.

In France, the European flag is a familiar sight, flying from public buildings in Paris alongside the *drapeau tricolore* and draped behind the President when he broadcasts to the nation. Europe Day, however, is rather lost among the many public holidays that fall in May. As it follows VE Day many take it as an extra day off without realising its significance. The French Government is trying to change that with a number of official events, including a conference on Europe at the Sorbonne where the Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, will give the closing address. A huge "Gourmet Village" has been installed at La Défense on the outskirts of Paris where EU member countries will sell their specialities. There will be no "rosbif" from Britain — only tea, bread and cheese.

In Britain the eve of Europe Day has actually created an surge in demand for Union Jacks, according to one of Britain's largest flag manufacturers. Ian Simmonds, the managing director of House of Flags in Kimbolton, Cambridgeshire, has received dozens of calls from customers who want to register their anti-European sentiments by raising the national flag. Mr Simmonds, whose factory in John Major's constituency sells 2,500 EU flags to 15,000 Union flags, said: "There has been no extra demand for the EU flag, but several individuals have bought Union Jacks for Europe Day to make a statement."

Tony Saunders, assistant manager of the Queen's flagmakers, Black and Edgington in Orpington, said: "We will be flying the EU flag, not for any political reason, but because it is a flag day, but I cannot imagine that Her Majesty will have one on the roof of Buckingham Palace."

Leading article, page 19

NEWS IN BRIEF

Boy died 'after being refused treatment'

A Birmingham coroner recorded an open verdict on a schoolboy, allegedly refused treatment at a cash-starved hospital, who later died of a meningitis-related disease.

The inquest into his death was told that James Hoccom, 15, of Solihull, was taken to the town's hospital last October 14. His father, Bill, pleaded with doctors to administer life-saving penicillin but, he said, this was refused because his son was a paediatric case and the children's ward had been closed. The boy died shortly after being admitted to another hospital.

Watchdog protest

Sir Peter Woodhead, the prisons ombudsman, protested about the decision by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, to change his work conditions. MPs said barring Sir Peter from studying ministers' decisions meant he was no longer an ombudsman.

Schoolgirls found

Kirsty Ann Boyd and Aileen McGhie, two 15-year-old girls who ran away from their dormitories at Lomond School in Helensburgh over a week ago, have been found safe more than a hundred miles away in Inverness. Police are interviewing them.

Ecstasy warning

There will be a physical and psychological price to pay for young people's use of drugs, particularly Ecstasy, a parliamentary report says. The Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology said millions were involved in "a voluntary mass experiment".

Shocks banned

A High Court judge banned doctors from administering electric shock treatment to Teresa Pierce, 27, against her will. Mr Justice Popplewell also gave her leave to apply for a judicial review of her detention at University College Hospital, London.

First-class Best

George Best, 49, the former Manchester United and Northern Ireland forward, was voted greatest ever UK footballer in a poll for Royal Mail. Five stamps, featuring now-dead players, are issued on May 14 for next month's European championship.

Rugby choice

The Princess Royal's son, Peter Phillips, will be in the Scottish Schools' Under-18 rugby squad touring South Africa during the summer. Although 18, his birthday allows him to be one of four Gordonstoun School pupils in the squad of 26.

Jailhouse frock

Father Martin McKenna, 33, a rock'n'rolling Roman Catholic priest who mimicked Elvis Presley in a local pub, has taken sabbatical leave after the Right Rev Patrick O'Donoghue, Bishop in West London intervened "to help him decide his future".

Round trip

Three men took off from Oxford yesterday in a 30-year-old Cessna hoping to complete one of the last great aviation challenges. They plan to be the first to circumnavigate Africa in a single-engined aircraft, making 55 stops in 27 countries.

Watchdog denies giving nod over MPs' earnings

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SIR GORDON DOWNEY, the parliamentary ombudsman, yesterday denied suggestions from former ministers and other MPs that he approved their decisions not to reveal their outside earnings in the Register of Members' Interests.

Nine former ministers were among MPs who omitted details of their consultancy earnings from the lastest register. Their move provoked angry reaction from some colleagues who claimed that they were not following the spirit of the new rules.

Although new Commons rules demand that MPs declare consultancy earnings related to their parliamentary positions, more than a dozen claimed their outside work was not linked to their job as an MP. Several MPs defended their stance yesterday by saying that the decision to omit details of income was taken after discussions with Sir Gordon, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards.

He countered that, although he advised more than 200 MPs about their outside earnings, they had to accept full responsibility for the final decision. "I emphasised to all members that the decision was theirs. Only the individual knows the precise nature of his or her work and it must be based on agreement between the MP and the outside employer."

MPs admit they have had difficulties trying to apportion the amount of outside work that relates to the Commons. John Carlisle, the MP for Luton North who owns a car business, disclosed up to £5,000 of his director's income, saying this related to "parliamentary services."

Sir Gordon, who admits to "inconsistencies" in MPs' entries, paved the way for test cases against MPs by saying that greater clarification of the new rules on disclosure will come if there are complaints about MPs.

He is braced for a wave of complaints against MPs accused of breaching Commons rules. Both he and the Commons Standards and Privileges Select Committee are preparing new guidelines on MPs' conduct relating to their outside employment. Under new rules MPs are barred from promoting the cause of companies and organisations that employ them.

"What has emerged is not perfect but it is without precedent. I hope people will not rush in with complaints but allow inconsistencies to work their way out over time."

Sir Edward Heath, the former Prime Minister, was among MPs who defended their decision not to divulge earnings by pointing to Sir Gordon's advisery role. He declared unspecified earnings from "writing books and press articles, lecturing, making television and radio broadcasts" on behalf of the Dumpton Gap Company, an unlimited private company of which he is chairman.

"I have defied no earnings rule." Sir Edward said. "I have no regular paid arrangements with the press, radio, television, sporting, musical, literary or any other activities. I am not, therefore, required to offer advice about parliamentary matters. I consulted Sir Gordon Downey about what should go in the Register, and I abided fully by the rules of the House of Commons." Norman Lamont, the former Chancellor, also refuted suggestions that he should have declared consultancy income, telling colleagues that his outside work, involving journalism, lecturing and overseas business, did not relate to his Commons position.

Tony Banks, a Labour MP who listed two consultancies under paid employment but did not divulge earnings, made clear that he had not been paid since 1994 for either position. "Nothing was declared because nothing was received. I don't know whether there will be other payments but I had nothing to declare in this register."

Letters, page 19



Sir Gordon: said MPs must take responsibility

SAS acts to stop book disclosures

BY MICHAEL EVANS

THE SAS is setting up a "disclosure committee" to ensure that past members of the regiment who wish to write of their experiences do not damage the effectiveness of Britain's special forces.

The new censorship body, which is being formed by the SAS Regimental Association, will supplement the Ministry of Defence's system under which serving and retired members of the special forces are expected to hand over manuscripts for screening prior to publication.

The decision to take tougher action against former SAS men who might seek to emulate authors of two bestselling Gulf War books — *Bravo Two Zero* and *The One That Got Away* — has been announced in a letter to members of the association.

The action followed a questionnaire sent to all members which asked their views on enforcing a lifetime commitment to non-disclosure of sensitive information. Seventy-three per cent responded and the overwhelming majority backed a lifetime commitment "and appropriate measures to underpin it".

Referendum call

Continued from page 1

ain should be a member of the EU. That's such a bizarre idea, I have difficulty getting my head round it."

But right-wing Tories backed Mr Redwood's move, which they believed could be a genuine vote-winner. One prominent Tory MP said last night: "I have no problem with it. Euro-sceptic Labour supporters might be tempted to vote Tory as we are the party which has given them the chance to say no."

Tory MPs believed it was a tactically astute move by Mr Redwood. Few expect Mr Major to accept the proposition, but Mr Redwood could still be portrayed as a peacemaker who had tried to defuse the impact of Sir James's party.

After a Westminster press conference to launch his personal manifesto, *Action not Words*, Mr Redwood said he had discussed the ideas with Sir James and would speak to ministers this week. He added: "I am keen to dissuade Sir James from running candidates against us. There are still things the Conservative Party could say and do which could tip the balance."

Sir James has always made clear he wants a referendum before or at the same time as the election. He would dissolve his party if the Government gives an unambigous commitment to a referendum on who governs Britain: Westminster or Europe.

Mr Redwood said he had helped to persuade Sir James against seeking a referendum on the Maastricht treaty. He added: "There is a lot of sympathy in the country for a referendum on general election day."

The former whipless rebels were unrepentant as they unveiled plans to push for a referendum.

Teresa Gorman, MP for Billericay, said she would secure a slot for a ten-minute rule Bill next month. Last month a similar backbench measure to curb the European Court of Justice's powers embarrassed the Government by attracting the support of more than 60 Tory Euro-sceptics.

Mrs Gorman would seek a referendum within a few months of the election. She said: "People are saying that we want our country back. They are saying we are sick and tired of eating humble pie every time the European Community is faced with a problem that relates to Britain."

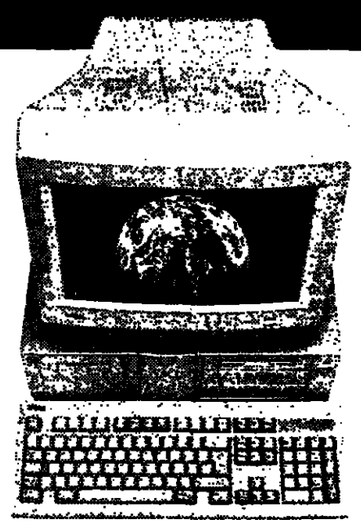
She said she had discussed her Bill with Mr Redwood, who had expressed interest.

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Flaming mess as spirit that crossed mountains and oceans is dropped on highway

Olympic biker falls foul of tradition and snuffs out torch

BY ALAN HAMILTON AND QUENTIN LETTS

EVERY athlete's worst nightmare fantasy came true yesterday for a cyclist in America: he inadvertently extinguished the Olympic torch.

The man — who has not been named — was carrying the flame across the spectacular Tacoma Narrows bridge in Washington state. Owing to high winds, he had switched from pedal-power to a motor bike. When he reached the bridge, the rim of his front tyre caught in the metal grating of the roadway and the athlete fell off.

With him descended the torch, ancient symbol of the Olympic Games, on its way from Greece to Atlanta. To the dismay of onlookers, it flickered, then died.

A replacement torch was swiftly reignited at the bridge. Organisers claimed they used the "mother flame" sparked by the sun's rays in Greece.

It is by no means the first time that the flame has gone out on its way from Mount Olympus to the Olympic stadium and previous relightings have taken place in more dubious circumstances. Ray Bird, a retired Hong Kong civil servant now living in Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex, claimed that the Olympic flame had been blown out by a typhoon as it rested for the night in the colony on its way to the 1964 Tokyo Olympics and that the Japanese relay team bearing it from Greece to Japan were to this day none the wiser. Mr Bird, who acted as manager of Hong Kong's tiny Olympic athletics team, told *The Times* that the flame had arrived by air from Thailand and had been borne by runners from the colony's Kai Tak airport to the City Hall, where the then governor, Sir David Trench, used it to ignite a gas jet in the adjoining garden. During the night, the wind blew out the flame.

Members of the colony's boxing team were guarding it, unaware that a spare "mother flame" was still burning inside the City Hall. They relit it with a box of matches.

"The flame was taken by air to Tokyo the next day, but I do not believe the Japanese ever knew that it had gone out," Mr Bird said. "We told the Hong Kong Olympic officials, but they went white and told us not to breathe a word of it."

A more documented extinction occurred at Melbourne in 1956, when television cameras were allowed into the opening ceremony for the first time. The runner bearing the living Greek flame entered the half-lit stadium and promptly tripped over a television cable. The torch went out and was rekindled with the aid of a cigarette lighter.

The whole notion of the living flame being brought from Greece is of somewhat unsavoury provenance. It was dreamed up by Nazi organisers of the 1936 games, hastily moved by the Spanish Civil War from Barcelona to Berlin. Top engineers and chemists from the Krupp armaments company designed the torches, which burnt magnesium and lasted for fully ten minutes.

The lighting ceremony at Mount Olympus, using a large concave mirror, was recorded by Hitler's favourite film-maker Leini Riefenstahl, who originally wanted the Greek peasant boys bearing the torch on its first leg to run naked. The peasant boys would have none of it.

This year's games open on July 19. A route across America, traversing 42 states and taking 84 days, has been planned for the flame. After yesterday's accident, it was carried to a ferry bound for nearby Seattle.

Superstitious souls may choose to see the extinguishing of the torch as punishment for American organisers using vehicular transport rather than naked Hellenic runners.



A long way from Tacoma: the flame being lit in March, with the sun's rays concentrated by a concave mirror

Ancient law keeps skeleton neighbour at bay

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A PERTHSHIRE farmer has successfully used an ancient Scottish law to protect himself from a neighbour who hung up a skeleton and wrote RIP in wet cement near his home.

Robert Morton, who lives with his wife Doreen at Balhaldie Farm, Braco, near Dunblane, used the Act of Landburrows, established in 1429, to protect himself from Alexander Liddle of Balhaldie Cottage, whom he accused of threatening behaviour.

The ancient law is rarely used in the Scottish civil courts but is designed to protect civil liberties and personal safety. Its wording has not changed in over 500 years and it states that "the complainer, his wife, bairns, tenants and servants shall be harmless in their bodies, lands, tacks posession, goods and gear".

Mr Morton resorted to the obscure law following a bitter feud with Mr Liddle that has lasted more than five years. The Justiciary Appeal Court in Edinburgh heard yesterday that the Mortons and Liddles shared an unclassified road to their homes and in 1991 the Mortons obtained a ruling preventing Mr Liddle leaving his car near the entrance to one of their fields.

In July 1993 Mr Liddle suspended a skeleton outside his shed in full view of the Morton's house with an abusive note for Mr Morton.

In April 1994 Mr Morton mended the access road and later discovered the letters RIP scrawled on the wet cement. The Mortons say that their fence posts were loosened allowing their sheep to escape onto the A9 and that in October Mr Liddle placed a condom on one of their gates.

The case was originally heard by Sheriff John Wheatley in Perth who found for the Mortons and described Mr Liddle's actions as "mindless persecution".

Mr Liddle appealed but yesterday Lord Ross, the Lord Justice Clerk, sitting with Lord Morison and Lord Milligan rejected the appeal saying they would give their reasons in writing at a later date.

Catholic Herald sacks writer after her attack on archbishop



Thomas Ellis: dismissed

BY RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE *Catholic Herald* has sacked Alice Thomas Ellis, the novelist who delivered a vehement attack on the late Archbishop Derek Worlock of Liverpool in her column in the paper last week.

In a front-page apology tomorrow, the acting Editor, Harry Coen, says the article was insensitive and "an error of judgment on my part". He writes: "We have no hesitation in apologising unreservedly."

Thomas Ellis provoked outrage among Roman Catholics with her claims that Archbisop Worlock took Liverpool, once the most Roman Catholic city in England, to the bottom of the Mass attendance tables. She also said that he caused a slump in conversions and vocations and that he avoided people who did not share his views.

She said that the media was "taken in by the PR" and that those who did not agree with the Archbishop were "effectively silenced". She also said that his strong relationships with other denominations had weakened the Catholic message in the diocese.

The article caused widespread offence in a Church which had regarded Archbishop Worlock, who died of cancer earlier this year, almost as a saint. It prompted the weekly paper's largest postbag, with more than 100 letters.

Thomas Ellis, a traditionalist Catholic and author of works including *The Clothes in the Wardrobe*, was hired three years ago by Cristina Odone, the *Herald*'s Editor. Miss Odone is currently on sabbatical, writing her second novel.

Thomas Ellis claimed last night that her dismissal was a direct result of the article. "I am going to go on fighting for the faith. I will not be silenced," she said. "The hierarchy are bullying, authoritarian. They will not listen to the people. The faithful write to their bishops and get no answer. They are utterly bewildered. I was lucky that I managed to get a voice for three years."

Mr Coen said that her dismissal had been decided upon before the article appeared, and was for financial reasons. But Ms Thomas Ellis said that she had not been told that she was to be sacked until after the column appeared. "Of course I'm being fired because of the article."

The latest controversy has placed her at the head of the liberal-versus-traditionalist battle currently being fought in the Catholic Church in Britain. Her dismissal will give her the status of a martyr among conservative Catholics whose campaigns on issues such as education, abortion and family life are gaining in momentum. They have launched a successful rival to the *Herald*, the *Catholic Times*, which takes a strictly traditionalist line.

The liberal-conservative battle is also thought to have affected the choice of Archbishop Worlock's successor, which has been delayed by months. Intense lobbying has taken place on both sides.

Mother who poisoned her daughters is jailed

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

A WOMAN with a personality disorder that leaves her emotionally stunted and cold was jailed yesterday for killing one of her daughters and poisoning another.

Mr Justice Garland, sitting at the High Court, said he was sentencing Celia Beckett, of Newark, Nottinghamshire, to a prison term with a heavy heart because there was no other course available to him.

Her case provoked criticism of police and social services last October when Beckett was convicted after a month-long trial at Nottinghamshire Crown Court of the manslaughter of Tracey, four, and of poisoning her youngest child, Debbie, then two, with anti-depressant tablets.

Nottinghamshire police admitted their investigation into the case was "sloppy" and the social services department launched a review of its child-protection policy.

Beckett, 34, who has been living in a bail hostel, had psychiatric tests before sentencing. Experts have been looking at the possibility that she had Münchausen's syndrome by proxy, which compels people to harm others to draw attention to themselves.

However, the court was told that psychiatrists found she was suffering from a personality disorder but was not mentally ill or impaired. Beckett, graded two points above mental handicap in educational terms, is unable to express normal emotions.

The Mental Health Act required a sentencing judge to be satisfied the defendant was suffering from a mental illness, "which this defendant is not", Mr Justice Garland said. He hoped that Beckett would receive appropriate support and treatment in jail.

Becket was sentenced to five years for manslaughter, five years for administering a noxious substance to Tracey, four years for administering a noxious substance to Debbie, and six months for wilful neglect, all concurrent. At her trial, the prosecution accused welfare agencies of a wholesale failure to protect Beckett's children, Tracey, Debbie, now six and living in care, and Clare, who died aged seven in 1991.

In November 1984 Clare, then five months old, was taken to hospital after she stopped breathing. She spent the rest of her life in a home for severely ill children, dying five years later blind, epileptic, mentally handicapped and with cerebral palsy.

A charge against Becket of causing grievous bodily harm to Clare was dropped because of insufficient evidence. She administered a severe dose of anti-depressant tablets to Tracey in 1986, when the child was four. She gave the same poison to Debbie five years later but the child recovered and is now living under a new name with adoptive parents.

The full facts of the case emerged only after the bodies of Tracey and Clare were exhumed in 1994.

Odd job pair 'killed employers'

BY PAUL WILKINSON

AS TWO elderly sisters prepared afternoon tea in the garden for their odd-job men, the workers planned to rob and murder them, a court heard yesterday.

Before the tea could be poured by Elsie Gregory and her widowed sister, Aileen Dudhill, at their home in Rotherham, South Yorkshire, Michael Pluck and Laurence Bierton attacked them, Robert Smith, QC, prosecuting, alleged at Sheffield Crown Court. Yesterday the two men, both 37, of Worksop, Nottinghamshire, denied murdering Miss Gregory 73, and her sister, 80, who suffered multiple injuries last June.

Mr Smith alleged that Mr Bierton cut himself in the attack and his blood was spattered around the house. Fingerprints of both men were also found. Police found the charred remains of Miss Gregory's dentures and clothing at the home of the accused.

The trial is expected to last three weeks.

'Hypocrisy' over young lovers

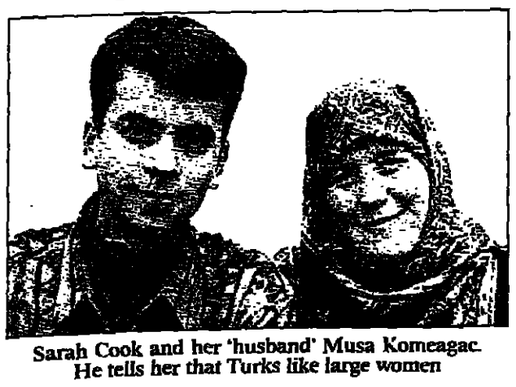
BY JOANNA BALE

BRITAIN is portrayed as a nation of hypocrites in Turkish television's dramatisation of the story of 13-year-old Sarah Cook, who married a Turkish waiter after a holiday romance.

The five-part series — in which the 18-year-old waiter, Musa Komeagac, plays himself — portrays the Essex schoolgirl as an overweight, headstrong teenager who is rescued from an unhappy life by the young Turk.

She complains to him that she has no friends because her peers tease her for being fat and a virgin. When the marriage is greeted with outrage by the British, they are accused of hypocrisy for turning a blind eye to teenagers who indulge in underage sex in their own country.

The director, Halit Refig, one of Turkey's best-known film-makers, said: "We wanted to show the inside story of an incident that was so prominent in the media. If the marriage had not been on the front page of *The Sun* then it would not have been a story — no one cared about it here until it appeared abroad. But people's motives and earlier events are not widely known."



Sarah Cook and her 'husband' Musa Komeagac. He tells her that Turks like large women

The couple's unofficial Muslim marriage in January, after a summer holiday romance at a Turkish resort, made headlines when *The Sun* newspaper bought the story for £20,000 from Sarah's parents, Adrian and Jackie, of Braintree. It emerged that the Cooks allowed their daughter to run up a £1,500 telephone bill in calls to Turkey, and they let her skip school and fly out to Turkey alone to spend six weeks with him and his family in south-east Turkey, then joined them for the traditional Muslim wedding.

When the story caused uproar in Britain, Mr Komeagac was speedily charged by a Turkish court for the statutory rape of his "wife", since she was too young by Turkish law to marry, and the Muslim ceremony — although common and socially acceptable — is not recognised officially.

Mr Komeagac, who is reported to have earned £30,000 for playing himself, is currently on trial. Sarah was made a ward of a British court and spirited back to Britain in February.

In the 50-minute first episode, Sarah contrives to bring the waiter to her hotel room, where she tells him she is in love with him, adding: "I never had any friends at home, they all made fun of me because I was fat." He replies: "In Turkey, we like large women."

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Europe unlikely to back partial lifting of beef ban

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS AND MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

A PLAN for lifting the worldwide ban on British beef by-products was put forward by the European Commission yesterday, but there were strong doubts it would be accepted by EU states.

Franz Fischler, the Agriculture Commissioner, won the approval of his colleagues for making the necessary formal proposal on gelatine, tallow and semen. Britain would be required to comply with strict processing conditions for the by-products. The Commission agreed that once these were in place and monitored the ban could be lifted.

However, it seems unlikely that the move will be endorsed by the veterinary committee, the voice of the member states, which meets next Wednesday and must vote by qualified majority before the Commission can start easing the ban.

The Commission's move was welcomed by Downing Street yesterday as a move in the right direction. The Ministry of Agriculture said it was "an encouraging step" but cautioned against too much optimism. Ian Gardiner, policy director of the National Farmers' Union, said: "Our problem for some time has not been with Brussels, which has tried to be helpful, but with other EU member states. There is a very real danger that their representatives on the veterinary committee will turn down even this limited relaxation of the ban."

Germany, France, Italy and other member states remain opposed to any softening of the draconian restrictions on British beef and by-products until more scientific evidence is produced to confirm their safety. With domestic beef markets badly hit, continental governments are reluctant to do anything which could fuel further consumer fears over the meat.

Jochen Borchert, the German farm minister, said earlier this week that his country would oppose any easing of the ban on the by-products for the time being. Philippe Vasseur, his French counterpart, had said that any such move would be premature and could trigger a consumer boycott of all French beef.

At the same time, European leaders are anxious to defuse a crisis that has helped to spur anti-European feeling in Britain and further strained London's already difficult relations with the rest of the EU. They want to calm the dispute before the EU summit in Florence on June 22, but are unlikely to agree to a suggestion from John Major that they convene a special summit to tackle the BSE problem before then.

In London, senior officials played down suggestions that Mr Major was on the point of demanding such a summit. But if the Commission's recommendation is not accepted next week, attitudes in the Government are certain to harden and Mr Major could be expected by his colleagues to take a firmer line and demand a summit.

It was confirmed yesterday that he had written to Jacques Santer, the Commission President, suggesting a summit would be an option if member states refused to lift the ban.

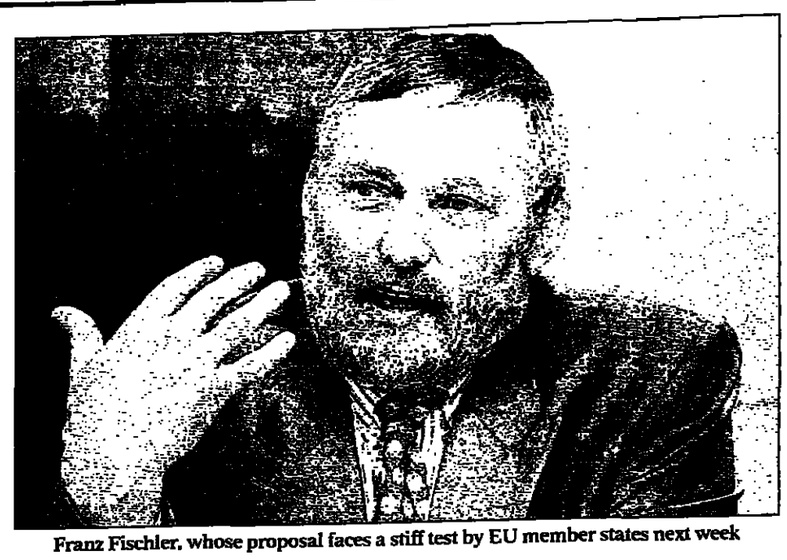
Herr Fischler bases his case for beef by-products on a finding by the World Health Organisation, endorsed by EU scientific experts, that they carry no risk of contamination provided they are subject to specific treatment. If the Commission proposal were to be approved next week, the ban could be lifted "as quickly as the British authorities get the controls and procedures in place", a spokesman for Herr Fischler said.

The Meat and Livestock Commission said last night that a lifting of the ban would boost confidence in British beef products. It estimated the value of gelatine exports last year at £29 million, tallow £4 million and semen £857,000.

However, Britain faces a further rebuff in Brussels next week after veterinary surgeons cast doubt on the credibility of the Government's scheme to keep cattle older than 30 months out of the food chain. These animals are regarded as more likely to be infected with BSE.

Bob Stevenson, the president of the British Veterinary Association, said that some farmers might be tempted to extract teeth from mature cattle to make them appear young enough to qualify for human consumption.

Stephen Rossides of the NFU said it would not make commercial sense. "Farmers would get more in compensation for disposing of an overage animal under the cull scheme than by passing it off as a younger beast at market."



Franz Fischler, whose proposal faces a stiff test by EU member states next week

BSE toll 'will drag on'

Scientists predict that hundreds of cattle will still be dying every year from BSE at the turn of the century. Researchers at Oxford University's zoology department claim that from 1996 to 1999 between 15,000 and 24,000 cattle will develop the disease because of failure to enforce controls on contaminated feed.

Among signatories to their warning letter in the science journal *Nature* is Professor Sir Richard Southwood, former vice-chancellor of the university, who produced the first report on BSE for the Government in 1989. The Agriculture Ministry said that since March, when banned parts of bovine carcasses were still turning up in cattle feed, surveillance had been increased. A spokesman said 40 high-risk feed mills were being inspected every week and another 260 mills every month.

Parents raise £10,000 to save teachers

BY DAVID CHARTER
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

PARENTS have paid £10,000 to save the jobs of two teachers threatened with redundancy.

Governors at the 510-pupil Hagley Middle School, near Kidderminster, Hereford and Worcester, asked every parent for a £40 donation per child to tackle its £26,000 budget shortfall.

The school said that almost all parents responded but some said they felt blackmailed. Together with other savings made by the school the posts were saved before two teachers were named.

James Cowlishaw, chairman of governors, wrote to parents, saying: "Commitment by 100 per cent of parents is essential for the proposals to proceed and an immediate response is of paramount importance." He said redundancy notices would be issued by May 24 unless governors were certain of funding the school's full running costs from September.

Parents were told they should pay the £40 per child donation in three instalments starting this term. Arrangements could also be made to pay eight £5 instalments by standing order. Those in genuine hardship were advised to contact Colin Millett, the head teacher, who would "give sympathetic consideration to your personal circumstances, in strict confidence".

Steve Harper, who has a son at the school, said: "I am appalled. We will pay it but it seems a bit of a cheek on top of all the other bills. The school seems to be in an impossible position."

Jane Tandy, another parent, said: "Most of us have agreed to pay up for the sake of our children's schooling. I feel we were slightly blackmailed but we had to do it."

Saxon Spence, chairwoman of the Association of County Councils' education committee, said the situation was part of a worrying trend. "It is a sad reflection on the underfunding of our schools, with pistols being held to parents' heads. Obviously parents will try very hard to respond but schools are asking them for more and more and you begin to lose your right to a free education. We are in danger of having well-provided schools only in well-heeled areas which is unacceptable because everyone pays taxes to provide a decent level of education for their children."

Eddie Oram, principal education officer at Hereford and Worcester County Council, said its £227 million education budget was £12 million less in real terms than three years ago. Several parents had called the council to complain and were told the school could legally ask for only a voluntary contribution. "I don't think parental contributions are a realistic approach," Mr Oram said. "There are many schools where there is no way parents could afford it."

Labour try to get rid of their Tory blues

BY ANDREW PIERCE

A LABOUR council is planning to spend thousands of pounds on red street signs and litter bins because the 23-year-old blue ones remind voters of the last Tory administration.

The move by Gedling Borough Council, which was expected to be rubber-stamped last night, has provoked disbelief in the Nottingham suburb.

But the ruling Labour group, whose first decision on taking office last year was to change the blue municipal diary to red, is adamant that *the move should go ahead.*

Labour is proposing that the blue and yellow civic livery will be changed to burgundy and cream. Meredith Lawrence, the Labour chairman of the housing committee, said: "Some people are not aware that Labour is in control. Blue is identified with the Tory party and that is not a good thing."

Labour has not costed its plan, which will involve repainting street furniture, signs, grit and litter bins, bus shelters and council vehicles.

Andrew Mitchell, Tory MP for Gedling and a junior minister, said: "Tony Blair *pretends he has created new* Labour but the old loony Left is alive and kicking the council taxpayers of Gedling. I have had dozens of calls from people who thought it was a joke but it's no laughing matter when their money is being spent on politically correct extravagance."

Kidney deaths blamed on lack of facilities

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

AT LEAST 500 people with kidney failure are being allowed to die each year because there are too few facilities to treat them, according to a report commissioned by the Government.

The national shortage of facilities for patients requiring transplants or dialysis is becoming increasingly acute and will worsen over the next decade, it concludes. Demand for one of the most expensive treatments offered by the National Health Service is accelerating because of the ageing population and advances in techniques.

The National Review of Renal Services was ordered by the Health Department almost two years ago, but publication was delayed by the Treasury because of alarm at its financial implications. It was slipped out, unannounced, by the department yesterday afternoon.

Kidney transplant patients are estimated to cost between £4,000 and £5,000 a year in drugs and other treatment, with much higher costs in the first year, compared with £20,000 a year per patient for dialysis. In some inner-city areas with high numbers of ethnic minorities — who suffer three times the rate of kidney failure compared with whites — treatment rates have risen to more than 120 patients per million population.

The report says at least 80 new patients per million population are known to require treatment for kidney failure each year. But the average level of provision is 69.3 per million and in some districts falls as low as 40 per million.

CORRECTIONS

☐ A report (February 7) on the return to Greece of ancient Mycenaean jewellery stated incorrectly that the Greek government had "proved to an American court that the jewellery had been looted" and that the Michael Ward Gallery in New York had exhibited the jewellery "illegally". In fact, the issue of provenance never came to trial. The gallery, which had been exhibiting the jewellery, voluntarily donated the collection to a Greek-affiliated charity, which eventually returned it to Greece with the support and encouragement of the gallery. We regret the error and retract that part of the report.

☐ The last Tasmanian aborigine, Suke, died in 1888, not 1988 as incorrectly printed in a letter (May 7) from Associate Professor Roderick P Power of Macquarie University, Sydney.

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Sainsbury's decline is blamed on arrogance and complacency

How king of the grocers lost its hold on Britain

BY SARAH BAGNALL

SAINSBURY'S was once the undisputed king of the food retailers. It boasted the highest number of customers with the highest spending, a winning combination that ensured its position as Britain's largest and most profitable grocer.

But after more than a decade lording it in the top slot the unimaginable happened. Sainsbury's has been toppled off the "most popular" pedestal by Tesco and is struggling hard to regain its footing. Yesterday it announced its first fall in profits in 22 years.

The reasons for Sainsbury's fall from grace are blamed largely on the group's culture. Although it is a fully quoted company on the London Stock Exchange, the Sainsbury family retains a large proportion of shares and David Sainsbury is both chairman and chief executive: a situation which City analysts argue is the cause of many of the group's current problems.

"Basically, it comes down to arrogance and complacency, which is partly due to being a family firm," Philip Dorgan, a food retail analyst at Société Générale Strauss Turnbull, said. "Sainsbury never questioned whether what it was doing was right and assumed that whatever anyone else was doing was wrong."

As it rested on its laurels, its more aggressive rivals eroded its grip on the market. Paul Smiddy, an analyst at Credit Lyonnais, said: "They were too slow at recognising that times had changed and that their traditional route to success was no longer appropriate."

Sainsbury's winning formula for some time had been to churn out own-label goods with a conveyor-belt consistency, but it overstepped the mark and customers objected to being force-fed the company's own products to the exclusion of the branded product they wanted. Its attitude to rival initiatives was revealed starkly in February last year when Tesco became the first food retailer to launch a loyalty card.

At the time David Sainsbury was scathing about the move, rejecting "electronic Green Shield stamp-type schemes as a way of offering customers value". However, Tesco's Clubcard has been a resounding success. Yesterday Sainsbury's caved in to competitive pressure and announced that it was launching its own card.

The delay exposed another perceived problem: a slowness to make changes. Compared with Tesco and Asda, Sainsbury's is seen as sluggish and unimaginative. Mr Dorgan said: "It is like the Civil Service: if it's not broke, don't fix it. Historically they have never had any new people coming from the outside into the top jobs, so they never had any new ideas."

Loyalty cards are one of the many initiatives employed to great success recently by Sainsbury's competitors. As a result, any lead Sainsbury's had on customer service has been snatched away. Tesco was the first to introduce opening a new till if a queue of more than two formed at another check-out.

Mr Dorgan said: "Sainsbury has the busiest stores and so it couldn't get away with offering the same service as everyone else. Two to three years ago customers started saying, 'I can't find what I want here because there are too many own-label brands. I can't find anyone to help me as there are too few staff and, when I get to the checkout, they are four to five deep. Why don't I go to Tesco.' ".

Asda has also emerged as a winner in the tussle for customers. It now has three million shoppers visiting its stores, 50 per cent more than it had two years ago. Mr Smiddy said: "Asda's game plan is to inject more fun into the mundane act of food shopping, which served to emphasise that the Sainsbury way of doing things is a bit matronly."

Among the mass of ideas introduced by Archie Norman, Asda's chief executive, are singles evenings and 24-hour shopping at Christmas. There is also a special service for the big shopper: a gold-plated trolley and chandeliers at the checkout.

Among the plethora of initiatives from other groups are in-store crèches, dry-cleaning services and bag-packers. Earlier this year Tesco announced the creation of 4,000 jobs to bolster customer services. Sainsbury's said yesterday that it now had 5,000 more bag-packers than it had six months ago.

In spite of its predicament Sainsbury's is by no means a lost cause. The need to restore its marketing edge may be resolved by the arrival of Kevin McCarten as marketing director. But his stay at his previous employer, Kingfisher, was not long enough to be able to judge the effectiveness of his actions.

However, the recently announced management changes, which will ultimately result in Dino Adriano taking over the reins of Sainsbury's supermarket business, is welcomed. The problem is the lengthy delay before he actually steps into the shoes of the chief executive.

Tempus, page 28

TESCO

Tesco's Clubcard awards customers one point for every £5 spent above a £10 minimum. The points are converted every quarter into money-off vouchers which can be used to save on future shopping bills. Points can also be earned on purchases at a variety of other outlets, such as B&Q and Lunn Poly, but can be redeemed only in Tesco stores.

SAINSBURY'S

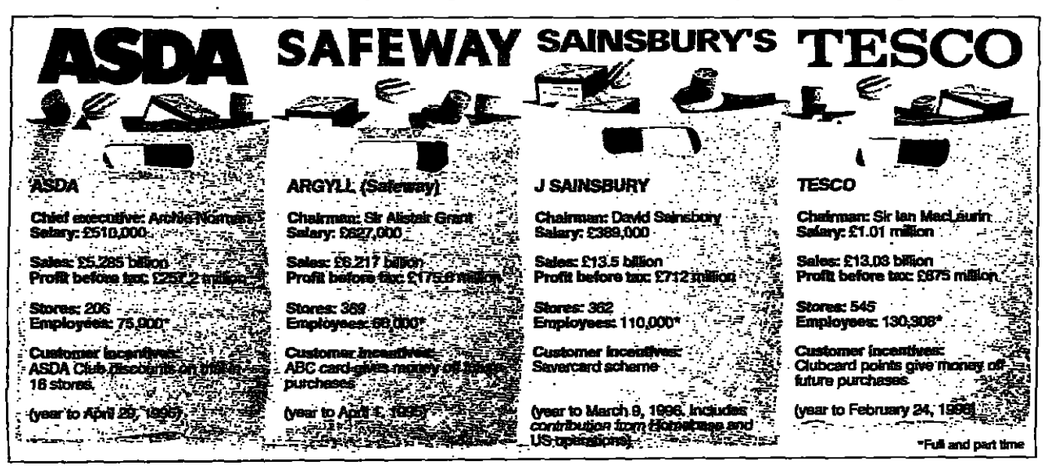
Sainsbury's has been offering a Savercard scheme in 32 stores, mainly new ones and those with a big competitor near by. Customers earn ten points for every £10 spent, which can be used to save on future bills. Buying certain products earns bonus points. The card unveiled yesterday is expected to incorporate the Savercard.

ASDA

Asda is conducting trials of its Asda Club scheme in 16 stores and may extend it depending on the response. Customers earn one point for every £1 spent. Points earned cannot be spent on food and can be used only to buy wine, beer or spirits (a bottle of whisky costs 1,190 points) or non-food items (a teapot cost 790 points).

SAFEWAY

Safeway's ABC card awards customers one point for every £1 spent. There is no minimum. Points can be used to save on future purchases: every 100 points earns £1 off. Points earned can also be used to buy promotions (100 points buys ten oranges), in-store services, such as crèches or dry-cleaning, or money off family outings.




MICHAEL POWELL

Critics say the firm's malaise is partly down to David Sainsbury, who is both chairman and chief executive

Shopping list of the future will give us food for thought

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

FOODS designed with specific health effects are the big idea of the future on supermarket shelves, it was forecast yesterday. They include a milk drink claimed to protect against cancer and a Coca-Cola product allegedly boosting brain power.

The forecasts follow yesterday's *Times* report on a new Finnish margarine that can cut blood cholesterol levels by 10 per cent. A raft of other "functional foods" are on the horizon, due to increased scientific understanding of the healthy constituents of the diet.

Yakult, a fermented milk drink, is the latest to be launched in Britain and the first to be transferred directly from Japan, where functional foods are widely sold. Marketed in packs of seven tiny bottles — one for each day — containing a brown liquid tasting like thin condensed milk, Yakult has an added lactic acid bacterium which is claimed to maintain a healthy balance in the gut intestine, protecting against cancer and other diseases.

Made in The Netherlands, it is in the vanguard of an expected invasion of products from the Far East, where marketing regulations are less stringent.

Six branded soft drinks containing polyphenols — an anti-cariogenic which stops tooth decay — are being sold in Japan as the answer to the dental problems caused by sugary drinks. More controversially, Coca-Cola has launched a drink aimed at the adolescent market which is claimed to promote learning ability. It contains DHA, a fatty acid essential to brain development in the foetus and infant.

Jack Winkler, chairman of a working group on functional foods at the National Food Alliance, an umbrella organisation representing 70 groups involved in diet and health, said: "We are moving to the point where we can tell which elements of food have which effects. We are talking about a radically different concept of food.

"We may have specifically designed food for people with high blood pressure, a high risk of heart disease or a propensity to develop other conditions. But we are going to need a very good assessment mechanism to sort out the functional from the phoney.

"From the commercial point of view, functional foods have tremendous promise. You can tell people to eat more of it and the profit margins are higher. It's a marketing man's dream."

Mr Winkler, addressing a meeting on healthy eating attended by food industry representatives, organised by Verner Wheelock Associates at the Royal Society of Medicine in London, said that adding "healthy" ingredients was not without risk. Two recent trials of betacarotene shocked researchers by showing that when taken as a supplement to the diet, it actually increased the risk of death from heart disease. Citing the BSE scare, Mr Winkler said: "These catastrophes have a long fuse."

Dr Alan Malcolm, director of the Institute of Food Research in Reading, said it would be wrong to dismiss betacarotene, which had undoubted health benefits: "We need more work to define the right dose. It reflects the fact that when you enter a new field, you can get things wrong."

Dr Malcolm forecast that the market for functional foods would grow: "There is no question that they are beneficial, but the extent to which they benefit health and the question of whether we should manipulate our diet in this way are controversial."

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Johnners auction loosens ties of memory

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

THEY are the memories of a life that was not just full but overflowing. Brian Johnston left souvenirs from a half-century of English cricket bursting from every shelf and cupboard of his study. Now they are being auctioned in aid of the sport he loved.

More than two years after the commentator's death, his widow, Pauline, has emptied his wardrobe of 250 club ties and swept up biographies, Wisdens, portraits, cartoons, signed cricket bats and assorted memorabilia.

"He never threw anything away," she said yesterday. "Things just accumulated on the window sill. My housekeeper cursed whenever she came to dust it. There were so many ties that you couldn't shut the wardrobe door."

Out of respect for the great man, everything will stop for lunch at Saturday's auction at Phillips in New Bond Street, central London. There will be platefuls of cucumber sandwiches and, at tea time, Johnner's favourite chocolate cake will be served.

The booty includes personal scorecards, handwritten commentary notes, about 500 volumes from his library, prints, paintings and about 100 photographs of himself with cricket's great and good.

ADRIAN SHERRATT



Pauline Johnston among her husband's souvenirs yesterday: "He never threw anything away"

In addition, there is Geoffrey Boycott's panama hat, Will Carling's baseball cap, Denis Thatcher's golf cap, David Gower's helmet and Stirling Moss's crash helmet. Proceeds will go to the Brian Johnston Memorial Trust, set up after his death in January 1994 to develop cricket coaching for youngsters and to foster the sport among the blind and disabled.

Among many autographs, his most cherished was that of Patsy Hendren, a batsman for Middlesex in the pre-war era. Mrs Johnston said: "When Brian was little and playing cricket in the back garden, it was always Patsy Hendren he wanted to be," Mrs Johnston said.

The sale is part of a larger auction of sporting memorabilia, including the bat used by Donald Bradman to score 212 for Australia against England at Adelaide in 1937. It bears Bradman's own personal inscription and the signatures of Hammond, Ames, Voce and others. Mike Ashton, Phillips's sports memorabilia consultant, said he had already taken a dozen telephone calls from interested bidders in Australia.

There is also a padlocked box, bearing the legend: "The Gloves that did not split". It holds the red boxing gloves used by Henry Cooper on the night he knocked down Muhammad Ali, then Cassius Clay, at Wembley in 1963. Clay's aides had split their man's gloves with a razor to give him a few extra seconds to recuperate.

Mrs Johnston has purposely withheld her husband's famous brown and white co-respondent shoes and the cake in the shape of the shoes, baked for his 80th birthday, which stood inside Westminster Abbey at his memorial service. She hopes the shoes will one day become an exhibit at the Lord's museum. The cake, now rock hard, is staying put under the sideboard.

"There will be mixed feelings on Saturday," she said. "I kept some things, but his study does now look a little empty."

Cricket, page 42

Psychiatrist tipped off police about Daniel's murderer

BY RICHARD DUCE

A SPECIALIST in child sex abuse led police to the men accused of killing nine-year-old Daniel Handley after his wife told him about an episode of *Crimewatch*, the Old Bailey was told yesterday.

The psychiatrist said that Timothy Morss had once confessed to him that he had an abiding fantasy of abducting, assaulting and killing a blond-haired, blue-eyed boy. The day after his wife had seen the BBC programme, he contacted the police.

Dr B, as he was called in court, was asked by John Bevan, for the prosecution, whether he had agonised over breaking confidentiality. He replied: "In the matter of the murder of a child and the matter of child protection, there was no hesitation."

Dr B said that he had seen Morss after he had completed a prison sentence for sexual offences. While in prison Morss had become friendly with his co-accused, Brett Tyler, and also with David Guttridge, who had referred both men to Dr B.

Morss, who had affairs with Tyler and Guttridge, described his fantasy to the doctor in the autumn of 1992. Dr B said: "He was telling me that he was interested in boys aged between eight and 13. The boys were pre-pubertal, with blond hair and blue eyes. He was very specific about that." Daniel had blond hair.



Daniel: killer fantasised about blond-haired boys

The fantasy was to take the boy into a van, abuse him, kill him and dispose of the body. Dr B said that Morss appeared emotionally cold and harboured "disturbed and violent paedophilic tendencies".

He had no subsequent dealings with Morss. When he contacted the police he also told them that he believed Guttridge could have been involved in the murder.

Police arrested Morss and Guttridge days later, but subsequently cleared Guttridge. However, Guttridge, 59, who helped his lover to flee the country by paying his air fare to the Philippines, will be sentenced later for perverting the course of justice.

Morss, 33, has admitted the murder of Daniel, who was snatched near his home in Beckton, east London. Tyler, 30, denies murder, but admits that he took part in the kidnapping and serious sexual abuse of the child on October 2, 1994. He says that Morss alone killed the boy.

Guttridge told the court that Morss had first told him of his fantasy while they were in prison. He had tried to help Morss to suppress his fantasy, but Tyler would "wind him up" because he, too, desired sex with young boys.

Guttridge, a chemical engineer with whom Morss lived at Bradley Stoke, near Bristol, said that Morss had confessed to him after publicity about Daniel's murder. Under cross-examination from Rock Tansey, QC, defending Tyler, Guttridge said that Morss had a "warped and twisted view of life" and saw sex as "power, revenge and vengeance".

He accepted that Morss was capable of strangling a child, but felt that Tyler "did not have the guts". Tyler was arrested in June last year in the Philippines, where he frequently went for sex with boys.

The case continues today.



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NEWS IN BRIEF

British soldier found shot

A British soldier serving in Bosnia with the United Nations peacekeeping force was found shot dead yesterday. He was named as Signaller Andrew Martindale, 23, who was single, from Newtownards, Co Down.

The Ministry of Defence said Signaller Martindale's body was found in a military vehicle in Visegrad, eastern Bosnia, with a single wound to the head. He was serving with 7 Regiment Royal Signals based in Germany.

Praise indeed

The American evangelist Dr Bill Bright was presented with the £700,000 Templeton prize for religion by the Duke of Edinburgh at Buckingham Palace. Dr Bright, 74, is founder and president of Campus Crusade for Christ and the vigorous evangelising group Agape UK.

Victim's cash

Gregory James, 29, a teacher from Cornwall shot in the arm by nervous Cambodian police and soldiers in Phnom Penh last August, has received £650 from the foreign ministry in compensation. He was one of four foreigners shot outside the co-premier's residence.

Criminal cabbies

Half of Glasgow's minicab drivers have criminal records, some for murder and rape, according to a police survey of 1,000 drivers earlier this year. The results, disclosed in a BBC Scotland programme *Frontline Scotland*, showed that one in ten had no minicab licence.

Cancer gene hunt

Britain's first research centre dedicated to finding cancer-causing genes was officially opened at the Institute of Cancer Research in Sutton, Surrey. Projects include studies to isolate genes involved in kidney, testicular and prostate cancer.

Classic rockery

***Dr Ruth Hoskin*, of Cookham, Berkshire, discovered a classic car buried upside down while digging her rockery. The Wolseley 18/85 was complete except for the doors and number plates. The council, which owns the house, is making inquiries.**

More radio Christians thrown to the lions

BY RUTH GLEDHILL

THREE more clergymen have been dropped from Radio 4's *Thought for the Day*, bringing the total to seven — all of them male and middle-aged or older. BBC insiders say the corporation is seeking younger people, including more women, from outside the main churches.

Father Oliver McTernan, Roman Catholic parish priest of St Francis, Notting Hill, west London, and a long-time contributor to the *Today* programme's religious slot, has joined the list of those being "rested" by the BBC.

Others who have gone include the Right Rev Richard Harries, Bishop of Oxford; the Ven George Austin, Archdeacon of York; the Rev Leslie Griffiths, former president of the Methodist Conference; and Canon Philip Crowe, former principal of Salisbury and Wells theological college.

The Right Rev Roy Williamson, chairman of the Central Religious Advisory Committee, which advises the BBC and the Independent Broadcasting Authority, is seeking "clarification" of why so many contributors are being dropped simultaneously.

One influential listener, Sir Sigmund Sternberg, a close friend of Bishop Harries, said: "All those dropped are good people. This has all been very unscientific. Proper market research on what listeners want and like should be done before a decision like this is taken."

The *Today* presenter John Humphrys, interviewing Ernie Rea, the BBC's head of religion, yesterday described the contributors as "endangered species". "Old hands" had been "dropped, or rested, in the quaint language of the BBC's religious programmes department".

Distancing the *Today* team from the decisions, he said: "It's they, not we on *Today*, who decide the cast list for *Thought for the Day*. We just provide the stage." He asked why so many of the BBC's thinkers had been "cast into spiritual limbo".

Mr Rea insisted that the contributors were being "rested" and not dropped. He admitted that one or two more names were still to emerge. Mr Rea denied that the contributors' political references had been a feature of the decision.

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Will be celebrating its 200th anniversary this year on Sunday 16th June (2-5pm). We warmly invite anyone who has been connected with the school in the past to the "Old School Fayre" on that date. We would also love to hear from you with your reminiscences of the school. Please write to Box No. MEFH, PO Box 3553, Times Newspapers Ltd, 1 Pennington St, London E1.

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BY PAUL WILLIAMS

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Show of hands seals verdict on Queen's portrait

BY ALAN HAMILTON



SIMON WALKER

Canvassing opinion: the media jostle for a good view of the Queen's portrait after it was unveiled by Mrs Bottomley at the Mall Galleries yesterday

LORD St John of Fawsley, the unreconstructed monarchist, peered quizzically at Antony Williams's portrait of the Queen as it was unveiled at the Mall Galleries in London yesterday. "These are not the hands of the Queen," he declared emphatically.

Mr Williams, 31, whose work was previewed exclusively in yesterday's editions of *The Times*, won a £15,000 commission from the Royal Society of Portrait Painters to capture their royal patron on canvas. Yesterday, the knowing and the merely well-known gave it cautious approval, but with reservations.

Lord St John, a former chairman of the Royal Fine Art Commission, granted that it was a powerful painting. "But it has not got the essence of the Queen, which is her serenity, benevolence and happiness. It has caught one aspect of her, but a portrait should capture the whole person. Come back Winterhalter; all is forgiven."

As Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, unveiled the painting, several hundred invited guests broke into simultaneous applause, and several gasped. "Ooh, brilliant," enthused one. "Oh, fantastic, enduring quality," said another. And a third, more prosaically: "She looks as if she's had a rough year, doesn't she?"

The hands caught onlookers' eyes almost as much as the face. "You never see her hands; she's always got gloves on," said one guest, inspecting the uncompromising detail of broken fingernails.

Mrs Bottomley agreed that it was a powerful and striking image. "It is a very strong statement about Her Majesty. It is not a chocolate box picture and a lot of people will be sorry about that. The painter has presented his interpretation and it will be much debated in the months ahead."

Others pressing around Mrs Bottomley for a sight of the canvas were less politically neutral. "It's good, but it's sad," said one woman. "No lipstick — and the hands are dreadful," said another, veering close to a state of shock.

June Mendoza, the distinguished portrait painter for whom the Queen has sat several times, thought the picture excellent. "People look at portraits only as portraits; they forget to look at them as paintings. This is a painting as well as a portrait and it is a very clever trick to combine the two."

The Queen, according to Ms Mendoza, is difficult to portray. "She needs a lot of subtle painting and you never have enough time because the sittings are rationed. She can look grim, but when she smiles everything in her face changes shape and she is radiant. This is a painting in which she is not smiling; it is a careful analysis of her in purely painting terms."

The 4ft by 3ft canvas shows the Queen's face and hands as wrinkled, puffy, rubbery and distinctly elderly, whereas recent photographs of her birthday celebrations suggested that she was wearing her years with grace and relaxation.

Mr Williams, however, was unrepentant, saying he believed it was an honest portrait and a good likeness. "I was not trying to go out of my way to shock, but I was trying to find something deeper. I was not trying to make any political statement; this is a pure portrait."

At least the Queen's painting is on view. A portrait of Mrs Bottomley, submitted for the annual exhibition, was rejected by the hanging committee.

Leading article, page 19

Applicants for gun licences 'should have to advertise'

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

GUN enthusiasts should face tighter vetting, including detailed medical and personal references, senior police officers told MPs yesterday.

One officer suggested that applicants for firearms licences could also be made to advertise in newspapers so that anyone who knew them could express objections or anxieties.

Giving evidence to the Commons Select Committee on Home Affairs, Chief Superintendent Brian Mackenzie, president of the Police Superintendents' Association, said legal notices were already used for liquor licensees and guns represented a more serious risk than the sale of alcohol.

Addressing the committee, which was hearing evidence on handgun controls in the wake of the Dunblane massacre, Mr Mackenzie said the notices might be an alternative to psychological profiling or special psychometric tests. Both would be very difficult to put into practice because of the resources needed.

Jim Sharples, Chief Constable of Merseyside and president of the Association of Chief Police Officers, also ruled out tests or profiling. He said there was no basic psychological measurement for owning a gun against which applicants could be tested.

He said GPs were more likely to have information that could be relevant and they should be asked to complete a standard questionnaire about applicants. The doctor would not be asked to make a judgment — which many GPs were loath to do — but provide material for the processing of the application.

Applicants for gun licences are already asked whether they have suffered from epilepsy or mental disorder but MPs were told there was no information provided on whether applicants had suffered depression or stress.

Mr Sharples said police felt the current system, where counter-signatories affirmed that the application form was accurate, had fallen into disrepute. He said: "It is not difficult for someone to get a signature from someone they know fleetingly." People who signed the forms should look seriously at the individual and have the strength of character and public responsibility to perform the task properly.

Police would like the signatory to be someone who has known the applicant for ten years and they should be asked direct questions about whether the applicant is suitable. The replies would be in confidence. At the moment police rarely check the signatories unless their suspicions have been roused by other information.

Mr Sharples said he disagreed with suggestions that all guns could be kept at clubs because they would become a target for thieves: some clubs would have to hold up to 800 weapons. Legal notices might also identify gun owners to thieves. Instead there should be legislation that set out new levels of security for keeping guns at home.

Vision from Sky ends TV darkness

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A SATELLITE television company is hurrying to the rescue of frustrated television viewers in the Yorkshire hamlet of Thixendale, the valley community cut off from terrestrial television by geography.

A team of technicians was due to descend on the 35 homes in the Yorkshire Wolds this morning, proferring free satellite dishes and signal decoders, a year's free subscription and, for those who until now have had no reason to bother with a TV, even a free set.

"There will be no need for them to wait for four terrestrial channels, we can offer them 28 satellite ones instantly," said Raymond Jaffe, a spokesman for BSkyB. "We will be knocking on doors offering the equipment and immediate connection. We will beat BBC and ITV into Thixendale."

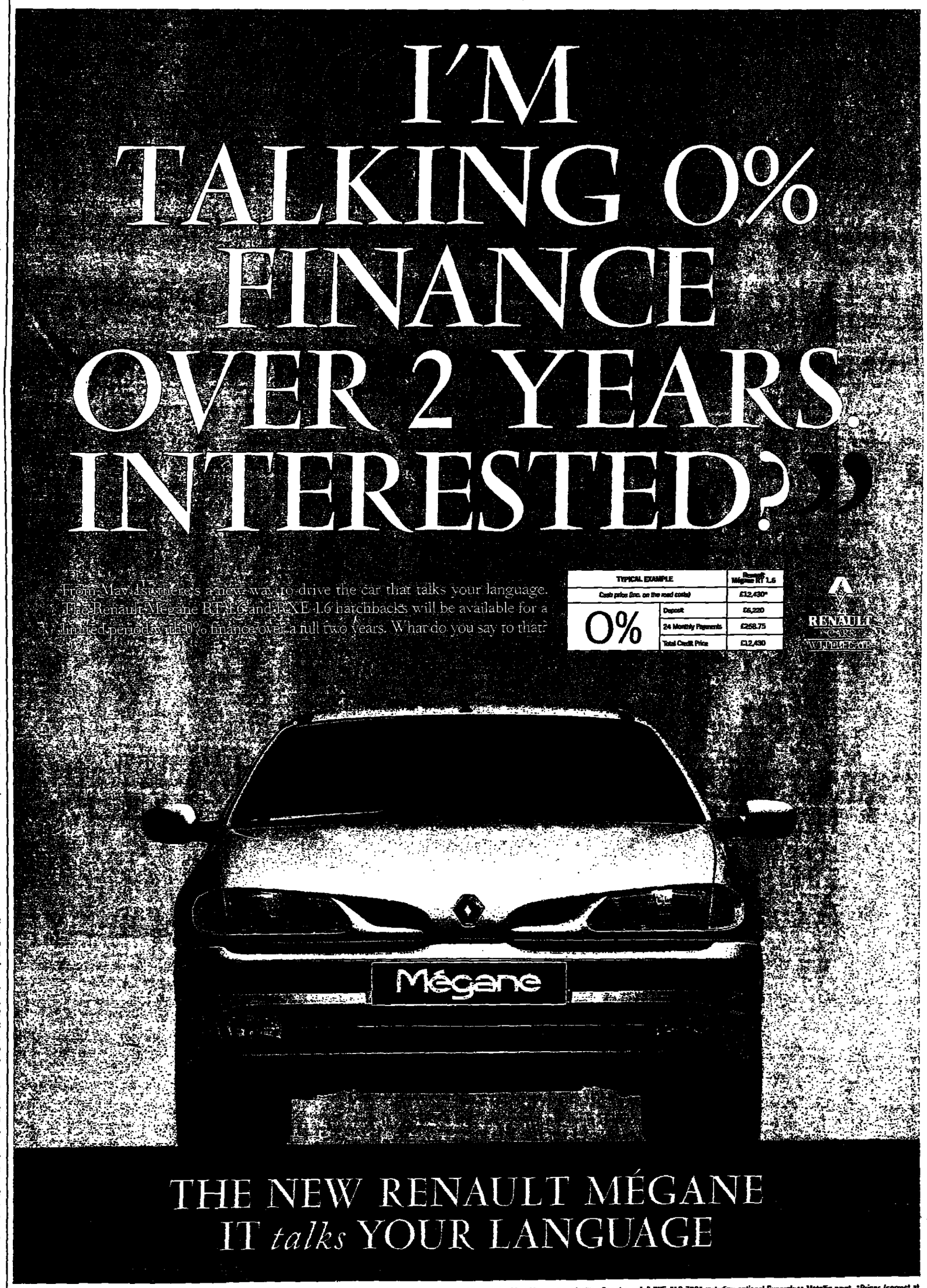
News International, owner of *The Times*, owns 40 per cent of BSkyB. The offer came after yesterday's *Times* report highlighting the villagers' plight. At present, those few residents who do have sets see only a snowstorm when they tune in and rely on video recordings made by friends who live in areas of better reception.

This week the community of 120 people launched a fortnight-long festival, "Life Without TV", to raise the £10,000 needed to erect a communal hilltop aerial to feed the four land-based networks into their sets.

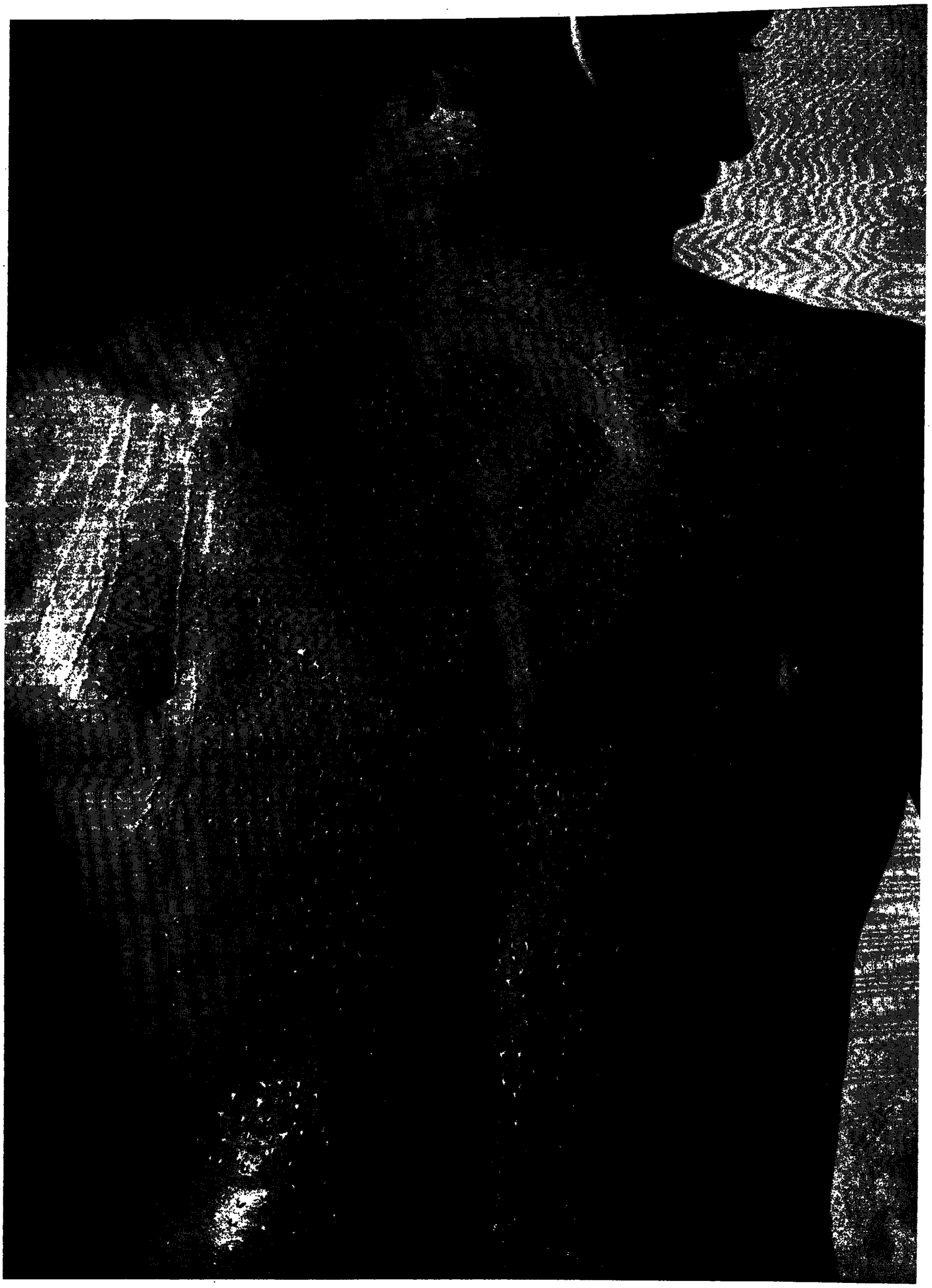
Adrian Ingleby, the festival organiser, has been staggered by the media interest in the story. "I have spoken to obscure London radio stations, foreign TV networks, everybody. I suppose we should be grateful for all the publicity for the festival."

However, he regarded the offer from BSkyB which includes a year's free subscription, with some trepidation. "I'm not sure how well they will be received," he said. "It's not the quality of the programmes particularly, it's all a question of paying for it after the first year."

Television, page 47



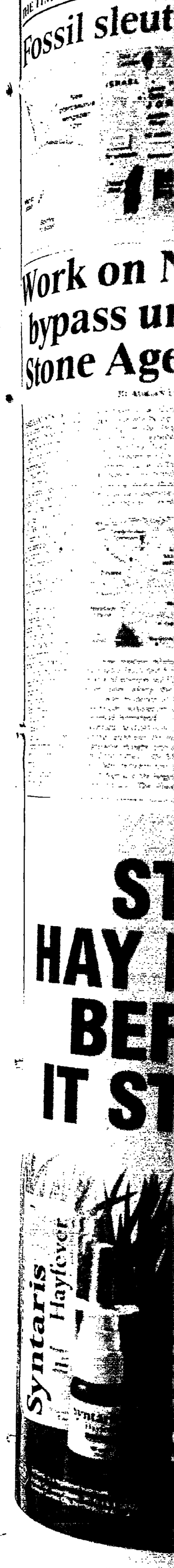
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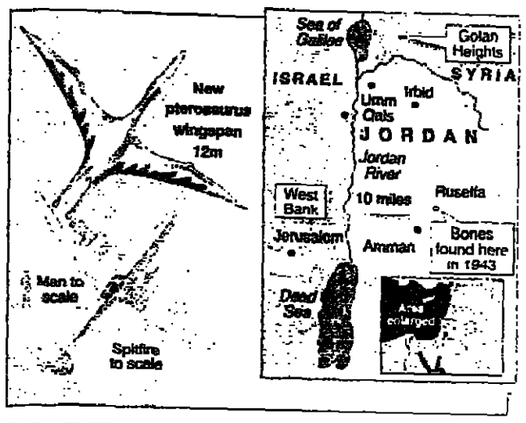
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Fossil sleuths trace long-lost fragment of giant flying reptile



BY NICK NUTTALL

FOSSILISED remains of the world's largest flying creature, the size of a Second World War Spitfire, have been identified by scientists after months of detective work in the Middle East.

The Anglo-German team believes it has found the neckbone of a flying reptile similar to the pterodactyl. It had a wingspan of 12 metres and was flying over the earth 65 million years ago.

Dr Martin Martill of Portsmouth University and Dr Eberhard Frey of the State Museum for Natural History in Karlsruhe rediscovered the bone after it was unearthed in Jordan over half a century ago, during the building of the Damascus to Amman railway, and then lost.

The archaeologists believe its owner had a wingspan up to a metre larger than its nearest rival, a flying reptile or pterosaurus called *Quetzalcoatlus northropi* found in Texas. Dr Martill said the "new" find, called *Arambourgiana philadelphiae*, was as big as a light aircraft and probably had a worldwide distribution. "It had a really massive head, tiny body, and enormous wings. Not the sort of creature you want to meet on a dark night or park your car under." The bone led the team to conclude that not only had they found a new species but also nature's biggest flyer.

A workman building the railway unearthed the 62cm fossil in 1943, attracting the interest of a Mr Kavar, the head of a phosphate mine near by. "It was eventually shown to a man called Fielding, a Brit and director of antiquities at the local museum," Dr Martill said. "The event was considered so exciting at the time that the bone was even shown to the then King of Jordan. He accused Fielding of blasphemy after being told that the bone was millions of years old."

The first full appraisal was carried out by Camille Arambourg, a French palaeontologist who shipped the fossil back to Paris and published a report in 1954. He concluded it was a handbone from a pterosaurus.

But Dr Martill and Dr Frey decided that the bone was worthy of a fresh appraisal after seeing a photograph of it a few years ago. They went to Amman last year to trawl through museums and the mine's offices. The even tracked down a Mr Kavar, the mine owner's grandson. "He is a shipping magnate and was interested in the story, remembering the specimen being brought into the house as a 14-year-old boy," Dr Martill said.

After weeks of searching, the scientists gave up, in spite of finding other fossils hidden in a curio cupboard at the mine's head office. Fortunately, a Jordanian geologist who had been helping them during their visit kept searching and a few days later found the bone at the university. "It was a place we had not considered because it is a new university," Dr Martill said. "But there was the specimen."

Dr Martill said the full length of the artefact was originally probably about 77cm, making it larger than the neck of any other known pterosaurus.

The description of the find and the species is published in *Neues Jahrbuch für Geologie und Palāontologie*. The scientists believe that *Arambourgiania philadelphiae* was very similiar to *Quetzalcoatlus northropi* and are willing to discuss the possibility with other researchers that they are the same species. So far, however, their research indicates that they are different.

Work on Newbury bypass unearths Stone Age village

BY ADRIAN LEE

ARCHAEOLOGISTS believe they have unearthed a Stone Age settlement beneath the route of the Newbury bypass. But even if excavations confirm the importance of the site, the £101 million road will be built over the top of it.

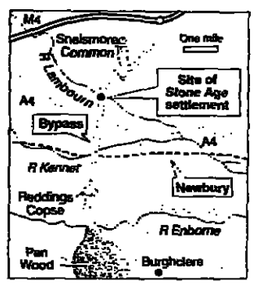
Wessex Archaeology, which made the find, hopes that it could prove to be one of the best six sites of its kind in Britain. Flint tools, up to 10,000 years old, have been recovered during preliminary digs alongside the River Lambourn. A contract, worth about £300,000, will be awarded by the Highways Agency tomorrow to excavate the area.

The discovery would not have been made without the construction of the bypass but, however significant the site proves to be, it will be covered with a plastic membrane and the road will be built above.

It is hoped that the membrane will protect the site throughout the life of the bypass. A spokesman for the Highways Agency said: "If, in say 200 years' time, it is decided we no longer need cars or roads, the site will be preserved by the covering and people will know exactly where to dig."

Andrew Lawson, director of Wessex Archaeology, said: "We have to be philosophical about the site being lost. The building of the bypass has given us an opportunity we might not have had."

The existence of a possible settlement came to light when 400 exploratory trenches were dug along the 8½-mile route of the dual carriageway. Similar archaeological explorations



are now routine whenever a big road is built, but Newbury produced unexpected finds. At other sites along the route there was evidence of Romano-British occupation and a medieval farmstead.

Wessex Archaeology hopes that the latest site will provide a valuable insight into life in Mesolithic times — the Middle Stone Age, between the end of the Ice Age and the beginning of agriculture. The discovery of whole settlements is rare, with only half a dozen sites of significance in Britain.

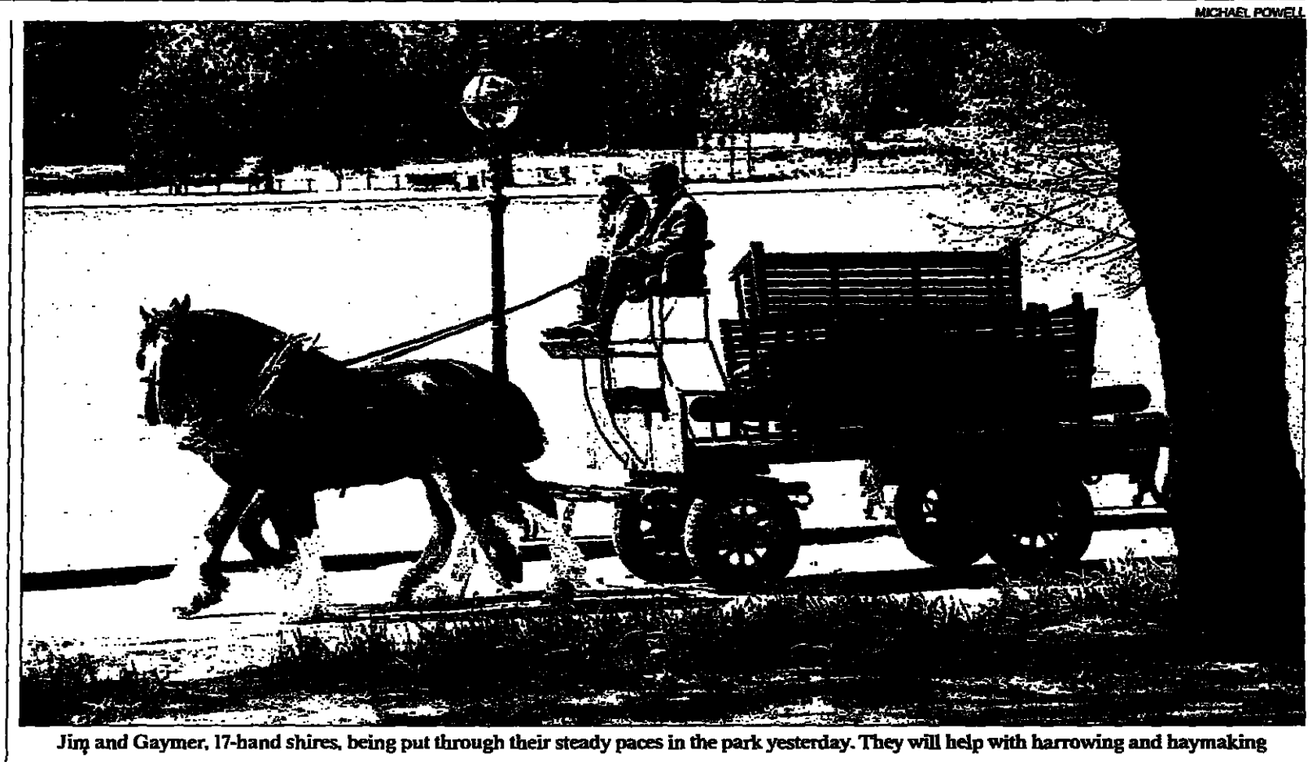
The best found so far is at Star Carr, in the Vale of Pickering, North Yorkshire, where wood from building structures and leather clothes were unearthed more than 40 years ago. It was probably a hunting camp site, used 10,700 years ago by some of Britain's earliest post-Ice Age inhabitants.

The Newbury site, on the flat river flood plain, would have made an ideal settlement. Mr Lawson said: "Until the full excavation it is difficult to say exactly what is there, but all the indications are that it is an important site."

The dig should begin within the next month, giving archaeologists a few weeks before construction of the bypass begins, probably in July. Among the signs of human occupation for which they will look are animal and fish bones, giving clues about the Stone Age diet and life. Any discoveries will be housed in a museum in the Newbury area.

The Mesolithic Age began in 10,000 BC and ended in 4,000 BC. Initial finds from the trenches at Newbury suggest the likely settlement dates from about 2,000 years into the Middle Stone Age.

MICHAEL POWELL



Jim and Gaymer, 17-hand shires, being put through their steady paces in the park yesterday. They will help with harrowing and haymaking

Shire horses bring pulling power to the park

BY ROBIN YOUNG

SHIRE horses brought a nostalgic touch of rural life back to central London yesterday. They reappeared in Hyde Park after a 50-year absence to help with harrowing, haymaking and hauling carts around the 350 acres.

Two 17-hand shires, Jim, aged eight, and Gaymer, 13, have been transferred from Richmond Park. Their new full-time employment was arranged by David Welch, chief executive of the Royal Parks Agency. "Horses are beautiful," he said yesterday. "They attract visitors while lorries, tractors and vans repel them.

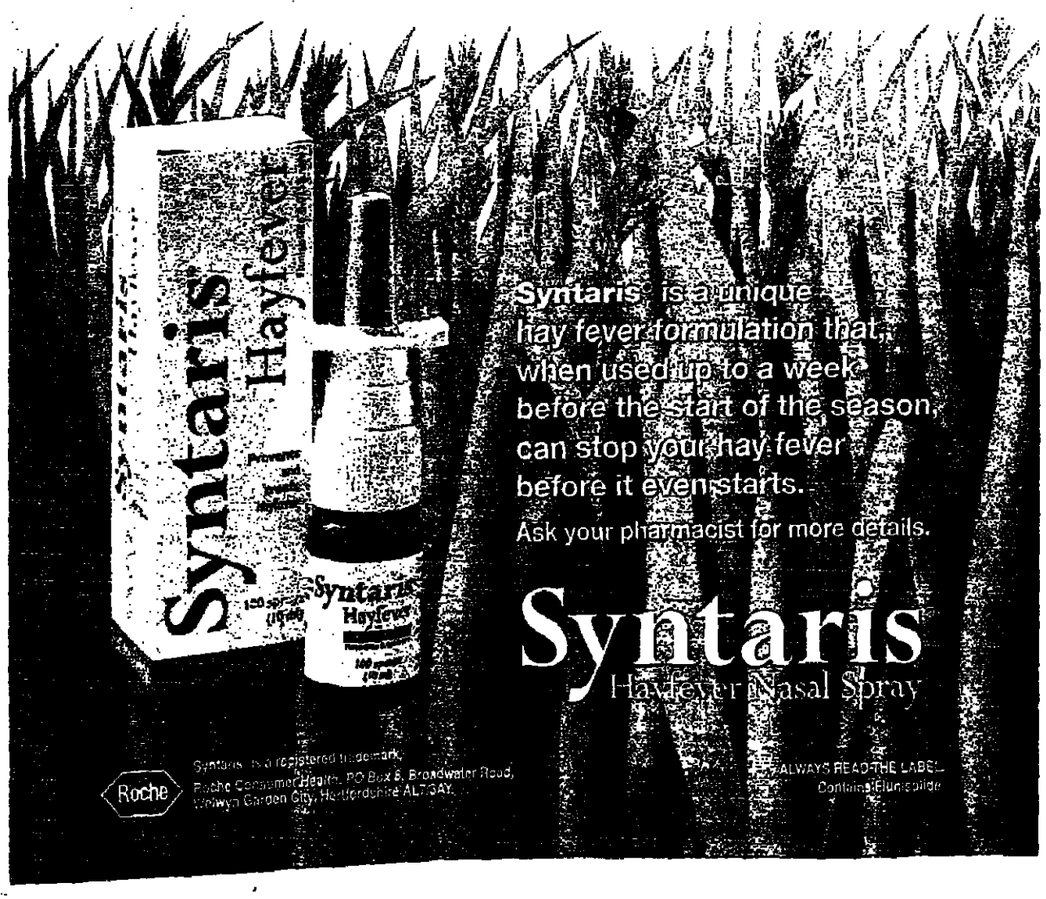
"We could eventually have horses pulling landaus in the park, pony traps and all kinds of things." Mr Welch previously built Aberdeen's parks department up to 38 horsepower.

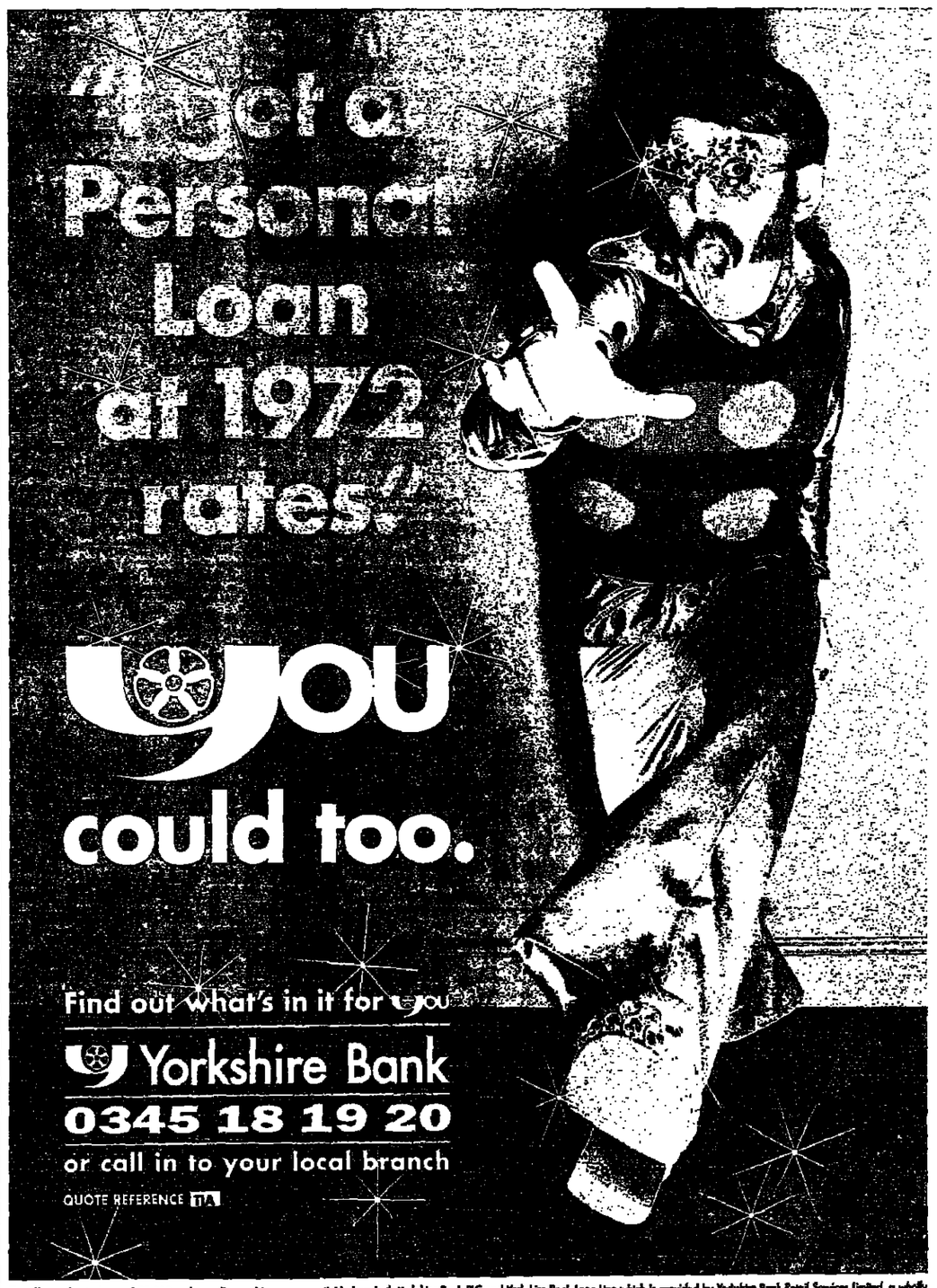
Horses were used in London's eight royal parks until the 1950s, when they were supplanted by motor vehicles. Jim and Gaymer, chosen for their sleekly dark good looks, were bought for £3,000 each and Mr Welch estimates that they will cost between £30,000 and £40,000 a year to run. "That compares quite favourably with motor vehicles. The horses quickly become economical when they are used for light jobs with frequent stops and they are particularly good going over grass or pulling timber out of woodland. Then they each produce manure to the value of £70 a year."

The shires will share stables with 16 horses of the Royal Parks Constabulary's mounted patrols. The two gentle giants showed the patience for which their breed is noted when they went on parade yesterday for a bevy of photographers.

A passerby mistook their drivers, Steven Greene and Mark Buxton, for rag-and-bone men. Mr Buxton has a more dignified pedigree: "My grandfather was stud groom at Sandringham and my father worked in the royal paddocks at Hampton Court, so I am the third generation to work with royal horses."

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Redwood strives to rally party behind his flag of unity

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN REDWOOD published a personal manifesto yesterday that he claimed *would unite the Tories and* help to avoid defeat at the general election.

Only days after pleas from the party's high command for unity Mr Redwood, last year's defeated leadership contender, rallied his supporters behind his programme for the new millennium. In a sideswipe at Malcolm Rifkind, who argued in *The Times* this week that Tories should not be shouting their differences from the rooftops, he said: "I am not one of those who take the fashionable view that all we need to do is to keep quiet for a year and we will then win the general election. I believe that we should be strong and clear in setting out our beliefs."

Mr Redwood, whose Westminster press conference was seen as underlining his credentials as a future Tory leader, was supported by the backbench Tory MPs Julien Brazier, Jacques Arnold, David Evenett and Christopher Gill. He said: "This is a call to arms for the Conservative Party."

The Conservative cause was not lost, he said, but he declined to speculate on whether John Major would win the election if he stuck to his present policies.

Mr Redwood presented *Action Not Words*, a 75-page pamphlet sent to every Tory MP, a combination of traditional One Nation Toryism and Thatcherite policies. The pamphlet, an attempt to broaden his appeal beyond rightwingers who supported his aborive leadership challenge, advocates a return to the "tax cutting crusade" of the Thatcher years, a restoration of mortgage tax relief, a reduction of VAT on fuel, a 200-mile exclusion zone for British fishing, and support for instituions such as the National Health Service.

Mr Redwood denied provoking further discontent or writing an alternative manifesto to the one being produced by Conservative Central Office. "It's not about who leads the Conservative Party: that was decided last summer. It's about where we are going as a nation and a party."

Economic recovery and the return of the elsuive feelgood factor would not be sufficient to turn the electoral tide, he said. He hoped that some of the ideas would be taken up and put in the real manifesto. "In some cases I hope that will be before the manifesto is issued to improve our chances of winning."

The powers of the "unruly and overmighty" European Court should be curbed. "We do not have many powers until we have established that an Act of Parliament is supreme and cannot be ovdrturned by the European Court. There is a growing resentment at some of the policies Brussels is pursuing."

Pressed on whether the Chancellor should announce tax cuts in the November Budget to stimulate electoral support, he was markedly more cautious than in his leadership election. The position had changed because of BSE, a failure to enforce a recuritrment freeze on the Civil Service, and because long-term interest rates were rising in Europe.

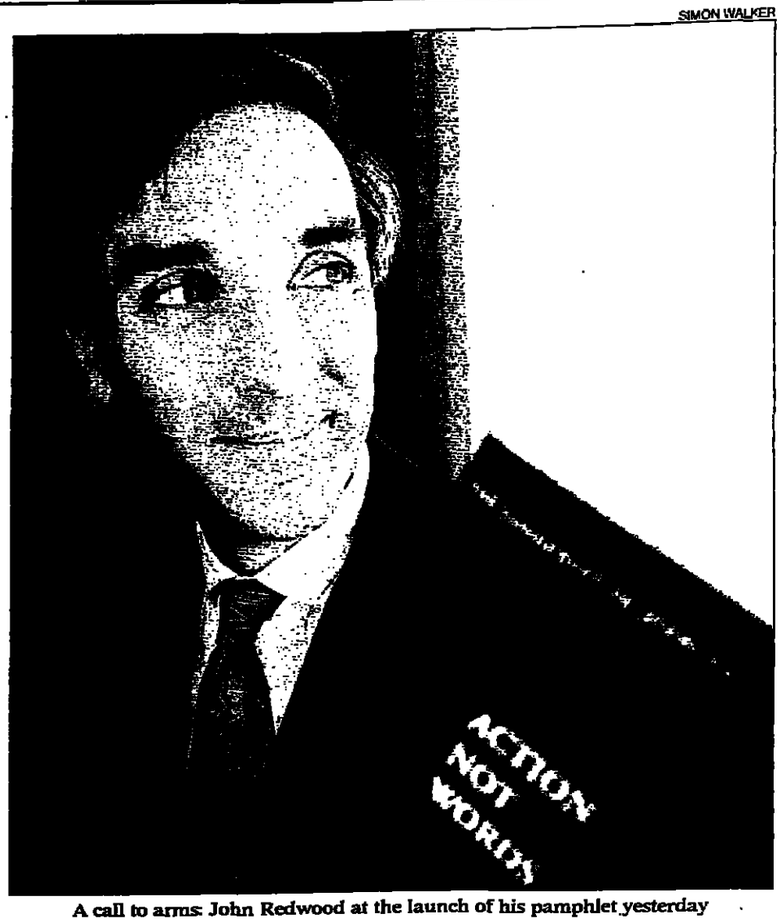
"We are united in wanting to reducing income and capital taxes when we can and in wanting to concentrate public spending on crucial services while finding economies elsewhere. But taxes must not be cut again if we then make a mess of the economic policy as a result."

He insisted that he he was not fuelling the divisions in the party that Cabinet ministers argued had contributed to their losses in last week's local government elections. "We are a long way behind in the polls. We have to urge our case at every opportunity. I am going to carry on taking every opportunity over the year ahead to urge people back to the Conservative way.

"You would find a very large number of Conservative parliamentarians who would agree with a lot of what I said about how we should develop health and education, develop our attacks on Labour and how we want a Europe of nations.

"You don't unite a party by saying nothing. You unite a party by having a clear, bedrock of principles which are commonly shared."

SIMON WALKER



A call to arms: John Redwood at the launch of his pamphlet yesterday

Labour enjoys the spoils of Tory Euro-war

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

So much for Tory unity. All the pious appeals by ministers over the weekend were brushed aside yesterday as Tory MPs indulged in infighting as usual. Malcolm Rifkind's attempt at Foreign Office questions to defend the Government's careful compromise was starkly undermined by strongly anti-European statements from behind him, as well as by the earlier antics of the self-described "Westminster Eight", the former whipless Tory MPs. But the committed pro-Europeans have also become increasingly vocal: Edwina Currie yesterday helpfully described her sceptic colleagues as "completely loony" and having taken "leave of their senses".

It is not just the appearance of public disagreement. The sceptics' views are totally at odds with government policy, even after its shift in a sceptic direction. Their demands, endorsed by John Redwood, for Britain to opt out of the common fisheries policy by imposing a unilateral exclusion zone and to pass legislation asserting the supremacy of the British Parliament over the European Court (as in Iain Duncan-Smith's defeated ten-minute rule Bill) are in practice incompatible with continued membership of the European Union. The comparison with the ruling of the German Constituional Court is only partly relevant since this was a specific and highly conditional judgment, not a general assertion of sovereignty.

The possibility that Britain may have to consider withdrawal from the European Union is admitted by Norman Lamont and Jonathan Aitken as well as the hardcore sceptics. Indeed, the most significant recent development is that withdrawal is now being discussed by mainstream MPs and newspapers and is not just regarded as an extremist fantasy. It was striking that on Tuesday John Major felt the need to offer the unsolicited assurance that "the view right across my party is that we are better off remaining in the EU" — when that view is evidently not shared by a number of his colleagues.

John Redwood is the most interesting player in these manoeuvrings. Since last July's leadership contest, he has played a skilful hand, always appearing studiously loyal in his suggestions about how the Tories could win the election. That applies to most of the ideas in *Action Not Words*, the collection of his speeches and articles published yesterday. He has strengthened his credentials as a right-wing candidate for the Tory leadership.

However, Mr Redwood is trying to have it both ways on Europe — claiming that his views are consistent with Britain remaining in the EU (albeit imposing a veto on the known views of most other members) and, at the same time, echoing the increasingly nationalist mood of many Tory activists and MPs. He is also challenging the careful Cabinet compromise on a referendum on a single currency. He not only says that any further significant transfer of powers to Brussels institutions as a result of the IGC should be endorsed by the people but also expresses interest in Sir James Goldsmith's proposal for a ballot on whether Britain should be part of a Common Market or a country called Europe. Leaving aside whether this question means anything in practice, any attempt to move away from the current policy on a referendum would split the Cabinet apart, resulting in the resignation of several ministers as well as Kenneth Clarke. Mr Redwood is trying to portray himself as a peacemaker between the leadership and Sir James when his actions are more incendiary.

Labour can hardly believe its luck, being able to gloss over its own differences and to revel in the Tories' discomfiture, as Robin Cook did in the Commons yesterday. Even if an explosion over Europe can be avoided, the Tories face further debilitating arguments and embarassing votes, as next week over the common agricultural policy. No wonder that the rest of the EU have given up on Britain until after the election.

PETER RIDDELL

Ashby successor

The Tories in North West Leicestershire have chosen Robert Goodwill, a Yorkshire farmer, as parliamentary candidate. The seat is held at present by David Ashby, who failed to be reselected after losing a libel action against *The Sunday Times*, which accused him of being a homosexual. Mr Goodwill, 39, will defend a majority of 979.

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons: backbench debates; Foreign Office questions; Labour debate on the prospects for water supplies this summer, and on the fire service; backbench debate on green belt land around Sutton Coldfield. In the Lords: regulation of UK business; effects of rail privatisation; Dogs (Fouling of Land) Bill, second reading.

TODAY in the Commons: questions to agriculture ministers and the Prime Minister; Armed Forces Bill, remaining stages; backbench debate on Royal Maternity Hospital, West Belfast. In the Lords: Asylum and Immigration Bill, committee; Proceeds of Crime (Northern Ireland) Order.

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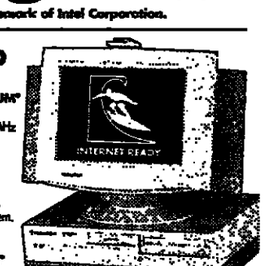
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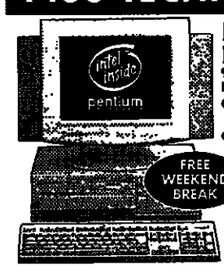
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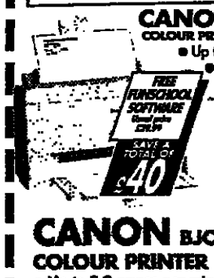


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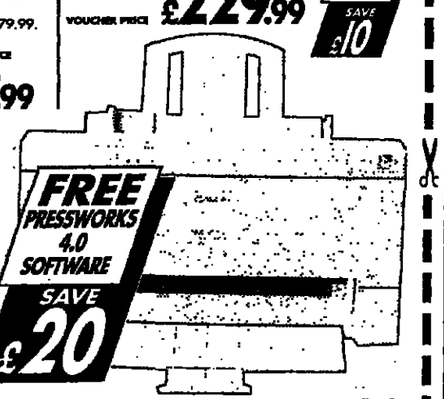
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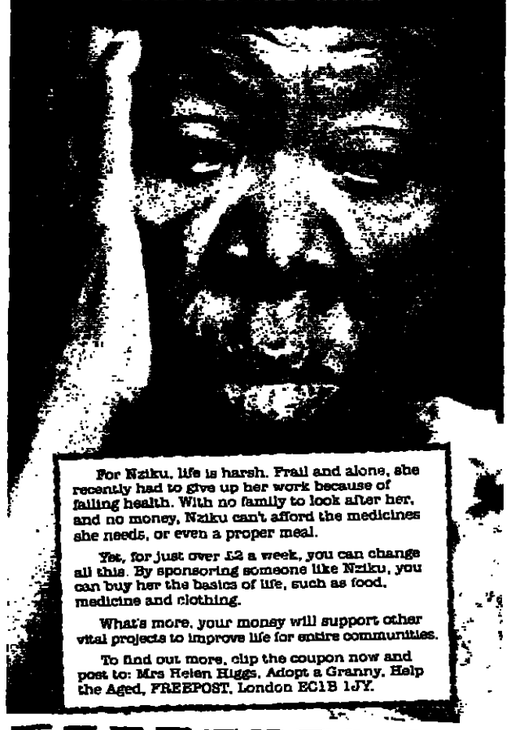
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Leftwingers thwarted in plot to oust Harman

BY PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

AN ATTEMPT by Labour leftwingers to force Harriet Harman's early removal from the Shadow Cabinet was defeated yesterday.

A proposal that the annual election should be brought forward to July rather than the usual date in the autumn was rejected after John Prescott, the deputy leader, argued that an internal election at such a sensitive time would hamper campaigning against the Government.

Paul Flynn, MP for Newport West, proposed at the weekly meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party that the election, the last before the general election and therefore the one that would decide the shape of a Labour Cabinet, should take place soon. He said that a change in the timetable would mean that the election would not get in the way next autumn of any preparations for the general election.

Although Mr Flynn and his supporters did not mention Ms Harman by name her critics have long made plain that they wanted an early election so that they could punish her for her decision to send her son to a selective school outside her home borough. Mr Flynn was one of her strongest opponents at the PLP meeting at which Tony Blair defended Ms Harman and showed that he had no intention of sacking her.

Yesterday Mr Prescott argued that it would be unfair to make changes in July because members of the Shadow Cabinet should be able to take the policy papers for which they had been responsible all year to the annual conference in the autumn.

However, Labour leftwingers were predicting last night that the decision could be followed by an attempt later in the year not to hold any Shadow Cabient election this year. Jeff Rooker made such a proposal yesterday but did not push it to a vote.

Mr Flynn's motion was defeated by 64 votes to 25. He later denied that his intention had been to remove Ms Harman and criticised what he claimed was the whipping of Shadow Cabinet and frontbench spokesmen to guarantee that his proposal failed.

A Labour source said that there was relief at the vote. Asked how it might affect Ms Harman's position, the source said: "This means any of the tensions that might have emerged in the spring and summer have the opportunity to sort themselves out over the quieter period."

Labour MPs are continuing their attempts to persuade Mr Blair and Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, to drop their plan to end child benefit for older children and replace it with a new grants for schoolchildren from poorer families. One senior backbencher said he had argued that had the plan been presented better it might have been saved. But the lack of emphasis on the school grants element had given the Tories a field day.

Bonn gives Brown a welcome worthy of tomorrow's man

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GORDON BROWN has been given the red carpet treatment in Bonn: a long meeting with the finance minister, Theo Waigel, and a dinner last night with the Bundesbank chief, Hans Tietmeyer. This is not, it is fair to say, the normal welcome offered to an opposition politician; earlier this week the Russian presidential candidate Gennady Zygunov was in town and was shunned by every government minister.

The fact is that the Bonn political establishment likes the look of Labour and can barely conceal its distaste for the infighting of the Tory Government. Chancellor Kohl has traditionally found Socialists easier to deal with than Christian Democrats when it comes to European management: Jacques Delors, François Mitterrand and Felipe Gonzalez all seem to understand the Chancellor's Europe and were duly treated as intimate friends.

There is, as yet, no intimacy between Labour and the Chancellor, no "lieber Tony". "But he liked what he saw," reports a leading Christian Democrat, referring to Mr Blair's session with Herr Kohl last year. That meeting was held — one might almost say staged because it contained more theatre than substance — after Mr Blair had addressed the Social Democrats' think-tank, the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung. At the same institute, Mr Brown carried on where Mr Blair had left off: he promised a quick signing of the social chapter, serious consideration of monetary union and an end to "empty chair" politics in Europe.

The Social Democrats, after 14 years of Kohl rule still a long way from power, were a little dazzled even by Mr Brown's dour delivery. "It was very refreshing," said Guenter Verheugen, deputy party manager, "to hear a positive, pragmatic approach to Europe compared to some of the negative and obstructive voices we hear in Germany."

That pleased Mr Brown, even if Herr Verheugen briefly forgot the name of the Labour leader: "Tony — er help me somebody — Blake." Visiting Labour politicians have an almost missionary significance for the Social Democrats in Bonn: *we can do it, so you can do it too.* But there is a paradox. The closer that Labour comes to power, so it finds it has more in common with other governing parties than with frustrated fraternal Social Democrats. In opposition, continental Social Democrats routinely lurch into either dogmatic argument, or leadership struggles.

Mr Brown's approach, presented in Bonn, was programmatic in a way that the Social Democrats cannot hope to be. A Labour government, he said, would campaign for the opening up of Europe and would get away from theological debate about the relative merits of deregulating or regulating the economy. It would fight to extend competition in telecommunications, energy and airline fares as well as pushing for an overhaul of the common agricultural policy.



Gordon Brown had long meeting with Theo Waigel, below



Herr Waigel received his first indication of how uncomfortable a Labour government could be for Bonn. Although, as finance minister, he has a strong interest in reforming the CAP he is above all a Bavarian with a powerful farming lobby growling at his heels. By and large the CAP has stayed off the European agenda for the past four years and though decisions have to be made — to admit East European candidates — there is no enthusiasm.

Mr Brown warned his Bonn audience: "In this debate Labour will not be uncritical supporters of every traditional proposal for greater European integration." The party would emphasise the need for "effective integration" while attempting to make Europe less centralist and bureaucratic. Even so Labour seems more intent on building bridges with Herr Kohl than on staking out separate ground.

Last year Mr Blair tackled the differences between Bonn and Labour more comprehensively than did Mr Brown. "The reason is clear," a long time German observer said. "Your situation in Britain has changed. Last year Mr Blair was in competition with John Major for the favours of Herr Kohl. Now there is no competition, only waiting."

The Labour offensive continues next month when Mr Blair addresses the German confederation of industry. The speech will almost certainly focus on Britain's attitude to the social chapter and on monetary union. Mr Brown has been urging Britain to start a debate on the practical aspects of joining a monetary union. The question of how relations should be regulated between those inside and those outside was prominent in the talks between Mr Brown and both Herr Waigel and Herr Tietmeyer.

William Rees-Mogg, page 18



Lamont livid at 'phooey' version of opt-out talks

BY JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NORMAN LAMONT yesterday reacted furiously to allegations by the former Foreign Minister Tristan Garel-Jones that he had nearly wrecked Britain's successful attempt to win an opt-out from the single currency.

In a BBC documentary, *The Poisoned Chalice*, Mr Garel-Jones describes how he guarded the door to prevent Mr Lamont, then Chancellor, from bursting into a critical meeting at which John Major and the Dutch Prime Minister, Ruud Lubbers, were seeking to reach a deal at Maastricht in December 1991. But Mr Lamont has accused Mr Garel-Jones of talking "nonsense on stilts".

In the documentary, which begins today, Mr Lamont claims he was responsible for clinching the opt-out by producing a piece of paper suggesting that none of the single currency proposals applied to Britain. Asked if it was not the Prime Minister who had produced the paper, Mr Lamont replies: "No, I did that."

Mr Major says: "Well, I'm very surprised to hear Norman say that, and so will everybody else be who was actually there at the Maastricht negotiations. I think there will be some surprise amongst the officials and others who were there."

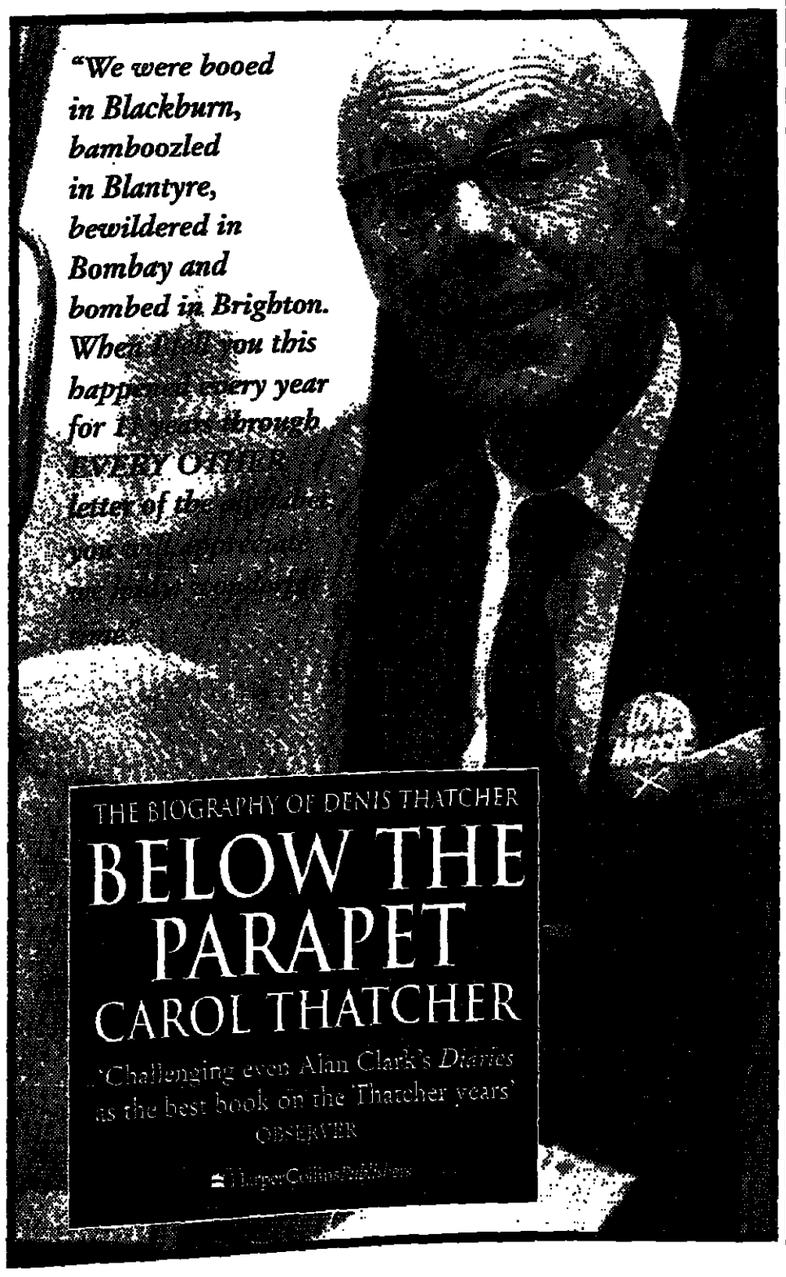
Yesterday Mr Lamont issued a statement insisting that nothing he had ever said about the Maastricht negotiations was intended to diminish Mr Major's role. "The Prime Minister was in overall charge of the negotiations. I worked under him and negotiated the detail of the opt-out in a series of meetings over one year," he said.

"I have confirmed my version of events with the Treasury. What Mr Garel-Jones has said is nonsense on stilts."

In the documentary Mr Lamont tells how he walked out of negotiations during a meeting of finance ministers. But Mr Garel-Jones claims that he could have lost the entire deal. "That was really quite a major crisis because by then everything else was falling into place."

At one point Mr Major had a separate meeting with Mr Lubbers, chairman of the summit, to which Mr Lamont tried to get access, according to the documentary. Mr Garel-Jones says: "Norman Lamont arrived, wanted to go into the meeting, naturally he's in a state of some agitation. And we have to say 'Chancellor you can't go into the meeting'."

Mr Lamont said that Mr Garel-Jones's version was "phooey from start to end".



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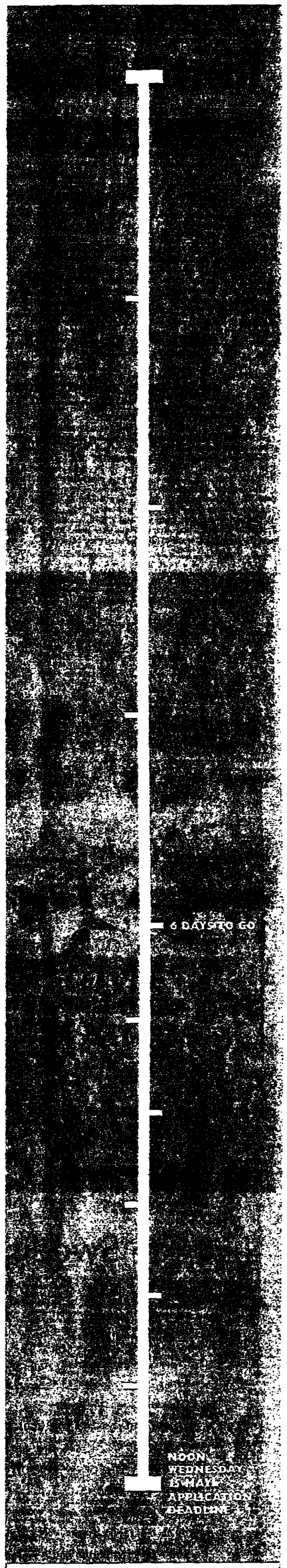
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Thirty hurt in German nuclear waste riot

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMANY'S nuclear "war" came to an almost operatic climax yesterday as a cargo of highly radioactive waste reprocessed in France reached its final burial ground in a north German woodland.

Fireworks burst in the face of the police, smoke billowed from burning tyres and straw; and high-powered water canon battered thousands of chanting protesters.

About 15,000 police were deployed along the final 11-mile stretch of the journey from the train station in Dannenberg to the burial site in Gorleben, south of Hamburg. Clashes between police and anti-nuclear protesters led to at least 30 being hurt, with a similar number arrested.

"It would be almost appropriate to use the word 'war' at the moment," said a police spokesman. "The protesters were out of control."

The biggest damage, however, was to Germany's image as a country that has mastered its nuclear energy problems. Yesterday's atomic waste was only the first of 110 train-loads that will be transported over the next eight years. Green activists were yesterday predicting that each of these loads would be accompanied by similar demonstrations until Bonn reversed its nuclear energy policy.

Since members of the Green and other political parties blocked the construction of a reprocessing plant at Gorleben, Germany's atomic fuel is sent for reprocessing either to La Hague in northern France or to Sellafield in Britain. It is then sent back for deep burial in Gorleben. Even this complicated procedure is, however, regarded as controversial.

> For the Greens there is one goal: to close the "atomic lavatory" in Gorleben and 21 power stations

For the Greens, the most important king-maker in German party politics, there is only one goal: to close down what they describe as the "atomic lavatory" in Gorleben and ultimately to decommission Germany's 21 power stations. This political fundamentalism probably accounts for the speed with which ordinary economic protests in Germany turn into direct violent confrontations. The scenes along the long train route from France to northern Germany often resembled partisan warfare as train tracks were ripped up by men in balaclava masks, signal boxes set on fire and bomb threats made at individual stations on the way.

Yesterday's confrontation, however, lacked even this subtlety: it was an outright riot. Demonstrators shot steel balls with catapults; fireworks and petrol bombs and stones were launched at the dense, frightened cordons of police. The police, in turn, moved in hard, using fierce dogs, water canon and teargas.

The most delicate phase was in the road journey from Dannenberg railway station to the Gorleben burial site. The atomic canister had to be hoisted from a flat railway wagon on to a lorry. Convoys of riot police surrounded the nuclear container and police on foot flanked the lorry as it crawled along the straight country roads. Helicopters flying low added to the general sense of menace. Burning blockades, put up with the assistance of local farmers, were bulldozed away.

When the protesters — about 3,000 were actively involved — lay down in the road, the police beat on shields as if about to perform a tribal dance, bellowed and charged.

The police had been given almost carte blanche by the Interior Minister, Manfred Kanther, who declared at the outset that "these howling, masked protesters" should be treated with firmness.



A protester grapples with German riot police in Dannenberg as nuclear waste is moved to nearby Gorleben



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WORLD SUMMARY

Rubbish plagues Athens

Athens: Greece's most pressing problem this week as temperatures soared above 30C (86F) is a load of rubbish (John Carr writes). Lorries began clearing 10,000 tonnes of rubbish yesterday that had piled up on city streets because the main Ano Liosia dump, north of the capital, was closed after fears were raised about residents' health.

The dump was reopened after pressure from the Environment Ministry, but authorities are threatening to close it again unless the Government enforces a 30-year-old law providing for hygienic, non-polluting land-fill sites.

Helms will face black rival again

Washington: America's black and white political divide was reinforced in North Carolina when Charlotte's former black mayor won a second chance to topple Senator Jesse Helms, 74, the icon of white populism, in November's elections (Tom Rhodes writes). Harvey Gantt, 53, swept aside a Democratic primary opponent, saying "I'm six years older. I'm six years wiser, I'm six years greyer and I'm also six years tougher."



Cat burglar: Maurice the kleptomaniac cat has been caught stealing women's underwear. The *Evening Post* newspaper in Wellington, New Zealand, said the cat's owner detected Maurice's fashion fetish when it began pulling her clothes about the house. Then, on nocturnal forays, it showed a penchant for singlets and bras, amassing about 60 items. *(Reuter)*

Pyongyang asks US for food

North Korea, which faces severe famine, has asked the United States for an urgent shipment of 3,000 tonnes of rice to cope with immediate food shortages (Leyla Linton writes). Food supplies are expected to run out in August, two months before the next harvest, if consumption, already rationed, continues at the present rate.

Peace talks off

Monrovia: Heavy fighting broke out in the Liberian capital and West African leaders cancelled talks in neighbouring Ghana that had been called to salvage a peace accord and reconcile the divided Government. Guerrilla factions fought one another with heavy machinegun fire and grenades. *(AP)*

Gangs cash in on lax Europe

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

CRIMINAL gangs, often based in Eastern Europe, are exploiting Europe's poor cross-border law enforcement to milk hundreds of millions of pounds from the European Union budget, the European Commission said yesterday.

The rise in large-scale crime is the biggest challenge in the Commission's efforts to tackle the misuse of funds, it said in its annual report on fraud. There was a 15 per cent rise to 4,700 cases, partly because of better reporting methods. These cost £880 million — or 1.4 per cent of the EU budget, about the same as last year, the Commission estimated.

Anita Gradin, the commissioner responsible for the EU's accelerating anti-fraud effort, said the rise in sophisticated international gangs accounted for the fact that 10 per cent of the cases involved 50 per cent of the money lost through unpaid duties and wrongly directed subsidies. Half the losses were in the agriculture sector, but the sharpest rise involved transit fraud as criminals diverted goods such as cigarettes, milk, animals and meat en route to avoid paying taxes due on arrival at their reported destination. These robbed the EU budget of £448 million.

The report cited a string of cases including the diversion of 150 lorryloads of butter and milk powder which left Britain bound for Poland but which went to Spain. This cost £2.6 million in wrongly paid subsidies. In one stunt, called the "meat merry-go-round", £34 million were cheated out of the EU. Live cattle were imported to Italy from Eastern Europe and then re-exported to Malta and back to Eastern Europe.

The report lamented the failure of the EU states to co-ordinate their law enforcement and judicial systems. This enabled the gangs, described by Mrs Gradin as "mafia-like" and often based in Eastern Europe, to make fools of the authorities trying to crack down on fraud. Fighting this menace required the 15 member states to "abandon their habits of judicial independence in favour of Community solidarity", it said.

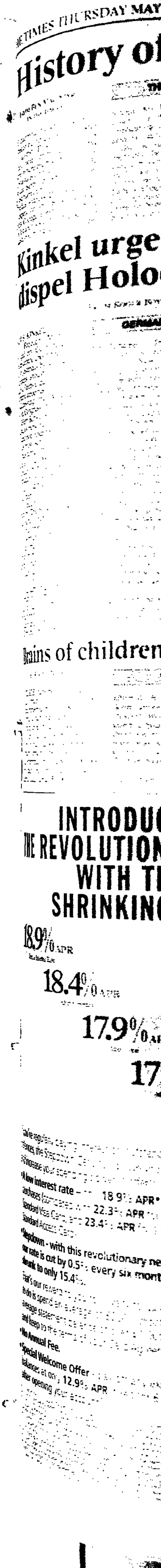
Noting the widescale abuse of farm subsidies, the report cited the fraudulent marketing of milk beyond EU quotas in northwest England, which cost the EU £1.2 million.

The Commission also complained about the failure of member states, including Britain, to recover mispaid funds. Only 17 per cent of fraudulently obtained funds had been recovered between 1992 and 1994.

Leading article, page 19

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History of Yugoslavia goes on trial with Serb suspect

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN THE HAGUE

THE HAGUE

THE international criminal tribunal began hearing evidence yesterday against Dusan Tadic, the alleged war criminal, at The Hague, where the history of former Yugoslavia is on trial alongside the Bosnian Serb accused of crimes against humanity.

The first witness, Dr James Gow, an expert on the Balkans from King's College London, offered a detailed analysis of the break-up of Yugoslavia, tying in the charges against Mr Tadic with the wider history of the conflict and so implicating those responsible for atrocities at the highest levels.

The trial has become a study in contrasts: between the tribunal's lofty aim to build an international legal code for dealing with war crimes and the base nature of Mr Tadic's alleged offences: between the high-tech courtroom and the primitive horror of the events being described in it. Unlike the opening day of the trial on Monday, when Mr Tadic sat almost motionless as the charges of murder, torture and sexual violence were outlined, he fidgeted and blinked with stress and boredom yesterday as Dr Gow described the complex constitutional wrangling that errupted into the bloodiest European conflict since the Second World War.

Mr Tadic makes an incongruous but oddly inconspicuous figure among the legal and academic experts in court, a man whose face might have appeared on any Bosnian news footage, on any side, from the past five years. The court, which was custom-built by the United Nations in a former insurance building, has glimmering computer screens on every desk, bulletproof glass, television monitors and radio-controlled cameras picking up every courtroom twitch and nuance.

The task of narrowing the distances in this trial between Mr Tadic's alleged reign of terror and the orders of his Bosnian Serb superiors is expected to take up to six months. At least 80 prosecution witnesses will piece together both Mr Tadic's alleged crimes and the complex ethnic and political situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, while 36 defence witnesses will support the claims of Mr Tadic's legal team that he is an innocent man, facing an international lynch mob, who may be drowned in the "well of polluted justice".

Mr Tadic is accused of specific, horrifying crimes, but the Bosnian Serb leadership and even the authorities in Belgrade are implicitly in the dock with him. For Richard Goldstone, the chief prosecutor, and his staff, the first war crimes trial since the Second World War is an opportunity to build a complete picture of Mr Tadic's small but crucial place within the wider context of the genocidal events in Bosnia. This is an effort not merely to bring an individual to justice but an unprecedented attempt to understand and perhaps prevent a repetition of recent history.

Given what is at stake, Mr Tadic might be forgiven for wondering whether he is a bit player in his own legal drama: a symbolic pretext for dissecting a period in history whose ugliness, in the words of the prosecution, "strains the most agile reasoning". Neighbours and victims of the terror in Prijedor have described Mr Tadic as a small-town bully with a taste for martial arts.

The historical background to events in former Yugoslavia allegedly affected him little until the full force of ethnic hatred and Serb nationalism reached his home in Kozarac when, according to the prosecution, he seized the opportunity to terrorise Muslims with enthusiasm and immense cruelty.

Kinkel urges nation to dispel Holocaust guilt

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMANY

KLAUS KINKEL, the German Foreign Minister, plunged into the middle of a fierce debate about the Holocaust yesterday by saying that Germans should no longer bear collective guilt for their wartime atrocities.

Addressing the American Jewish Congress in Washington, Herr Kinkel said: "Guilt is always personal, not collective and not inherited."

This most sensitive of subjects has come to the fore again because of a book by the American historian, Daniel Goldhagen, which says that Germans engineered the Holocaust because of a long pre-Nazi tradition of anti-Semitism. The book has been reviewed favourably in America but has prompted protests from German commentators who say that Germany was neither more nor less anti-Semitic than many other European states.

The controversy over the book has almost generated a diplomatic problem, with Germans saying that America is trying to revive the concept of collective guilt which blames all Germans for the crimes of the Third Reich. Transatlantic dinner parties, with German guests in New York and American guests in Bonn, have broken up in bitter disagreement over the book.

Herr Kinkel chose to state the case against collective guilt in the most exposed of settings: to Jewish community leaders in America. "Whoever says history was inevitable, frees individuals from responsibility. That is wrong," the Foreign Minister said.

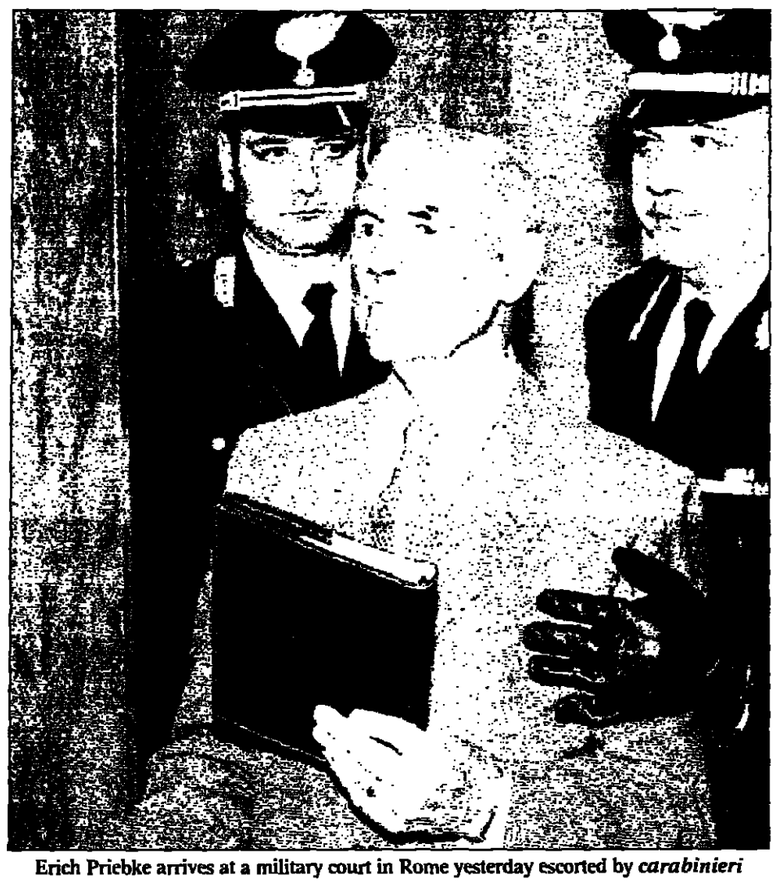
He said Germans were not trying to dodge responsibility altogether, but, rather, were concerned to show that it could not be generalised or regarded as a national characteristic. "National Socialism was not just a natural catastrophe. Someone was to blame." Germans, he said, "admitted the responsibilities we bore for the horrors that have happened as the whole truth of the Holocaust emerged after the war".

Germany had never been more aware of its involvement in the murder of Jews and other nationalities and had drawn conclusions for their contemporary actions and policies. "It was and is too easy to switch off our consciences, to look away, keep quiet."

Herr Kinkel's comments are unlikely to calm the controversy. The debate has become so emotionally charged that Dr Goldhagen has decided to withdraw from a public discussion in New York about the Holocaust. In a letter to German publishers, he said he preferred to wait until the German translation of his book appeared in August.

The book, *Hitler's Willing Executioners: Ordinary Germans and the Holocaust*, recounts incidents when police battalions, made up not of SS troopers but of ordinary Germans, murdered Jews with pistols and rifles.

☐ **Berne:** The Swiss Government said yesterday that it was willing to get involved in the hunt for assets belonging to Holocaust victims. A working group will recommend ways of investigating whether Swiss banks received Jewish funds confiscated by the Nazis. *(AP)*



Erich Priebke arrives at a military court in Rome yesterday escorted by *carabinieri*

SS officer 'was bureaucratic evil incarnate'

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

ITALY

THE trial of Erich Priebke, the man who is accused of taking part in Italy's worst wartime atrocity, opened yesterday in a military court, with the prosecution describing him as "bureaucratic evil incarnate".

Antonino Intelisano, the chief military prosecutor, said that Herr Priebke had shown "no real remorse" for his role in the killing of 335 Italians at the Ardeatine Caves on the outskirts of Rome in March 1944.

Herr Priebke, 83, was extradited to Italy from Argentina last autumn after being tracked down by an American television reporter with help from the Simon Wiesenthal Centre. As an SS captain, he had been adjutant to Colonel Herbert Keppler, the Gestapo chief in Rome during the war, and allegedly played a key role in the rounding-up and murder of Italians in retaliation for the death of 33 German soldiers in a partisan ambush in Rome.

The defendant, who escaped from a British prisoner-of-war camp and lived openly in Argentina as a hotelier until his recapture nearly 50 years later, admits to killing two of the 335 Ardeatine Caves victims, but maintains he had no choice but to carry out orders from Hitler. The Italians, who included 75 Jews, were shot in the back of the head, kneeling on the corpses of those shot first.

Some of the victims' relatives suggest that Italy turned a blind eye to Herr Priebke until the American television report. They point out that he visited Rome twice as a tourist from Argentina, and is said even to have visited Keppler in prison. The colonel was given a life sentence for the massacre after the war.

Herr Priebke appeared impassive yesterday, dressed in a dapper grey suit and only occasionally betraying nerves by chewing on a finger. He made notes in a leather-bound notebook, with his lawyer, Velio di Rezze, and an interpreter at his side. The legal team and two *carabinieri* largely shielded Herr Priebke from the gaze of victims' relatives crowded into the small stuffy courtoom in Rome's main barracks. One woman fainted from a combination of emotion and heat.

Both defence and prosecution lawyers asked for the hearing to be moved to a larger courtroom, but the presiding judge said none was available at short notice. Journalists and some of the victims' relatives were obliged to watch the proceedings on closed-circuit television in an adjoining room.

The opening of the trial was largely taken up with procedural wrangling over whether representatives of Italian Jews seeking compensation from Herr Priebke could attend. Signor di Rezze said the "astronomical" claims were placing an unfair burden on his client. Agostino Quistelli, the judge, overruled him. The prosecution will make its opening statement tomorrow, when the hearing resumes.

Brains of children murdered by Nazis for 'idiocy' finally laid to rest

BY ROGER BOYES

VICTIMS

A BIZARRE funeral yesterday of pickled brains of handicapped people murdered by the Nazis has stirred up a national debate about the significance of euthanasia.

Mercy killing has been one of the most powerful taboo subjects in modern Germany because of Hitler's extermination of about 100,000 physically and mentally handicapped adults and 5,000 similarly afflicted children. On Tuesday in Bonn, demonstrators in wheelchairs shouted and jeered, and tried to storm a building to protest against Peter Singer, an Australian philosopher who has raised the question whether seriously handicapped children have an automatic right to life.

Christian Democratic deputies joined in the protest. "If Peter Singer argues that infants do not have any basic right to life and that parents should be allowed to kill their children, then we Germans have to be particularly alert," said Hubert Hueppe, one of the deputies. Demonstrations against Professor Singer, whose book *How Are We To Live* has just appeared in German, have been staged throughout the country.

However, it was yesterday's Hamburg funeral that caused the greatest shockwaves. The brains of hundreds of mentally handicapped children killed by the Nazis have been stored in the cellar of Vienna's main psychiatric clinic. Since the Second World War, Austrian neurologists have used them for research, but many have been forgotten. Each jar is labelled with the victim's name, date of death and usually the diagnosis "idiocy".

Yesterday ten brains, each in a wooden box, were laid to rest in the Scholl memorial grave in Hamburg; the others will be cremated in Vienna. No other body parts remain. Some German relations have been traced and they attended yesterday's ceremony.

Professor Singer seemed bemused after police detained 40 handicapped protesters who had tried to disrupt a Bonn news conference, adding: "I am sure this is all because of Germany's past."

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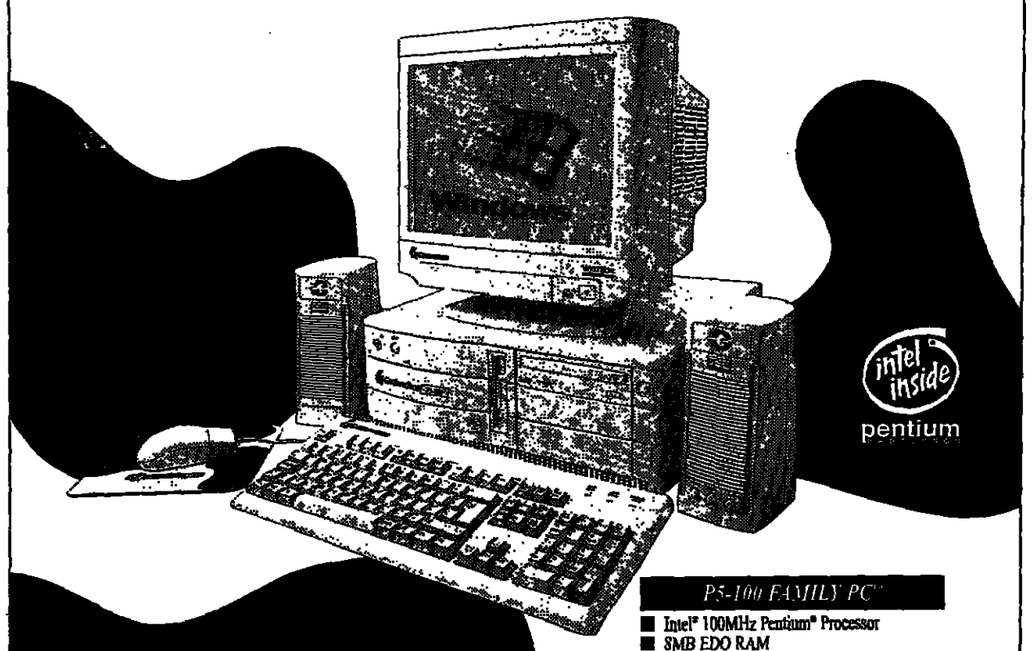
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Mayor lies low as US capital decays

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

ELEVEN days after Marion Barry announced he was starting a week's retreat to seek "spiritual and physical renewal", Washington's flamboyant black Mayor was still holed up in Missouri yesterday.

America's collapsing capital remained leaderless and speculation about what had really caused his sudden flight continued to swirl around its run-down, pot-holed streets.

There have been reports that before his departure Mr Barry had once again begun frequenting nightclubs and cruising the city in the small hours of the morning: the sort of conduct that led to the three-term Mayor's arrest and imprisonment for cocaine abuse in 1990.

There have been reports that the man who staged one of the most remarkable comebacks of modern American politics by regaining his old office in 1994 was back on drugs and alcohol. It has been rumoured that his two-year-old marriage was in trouble and that he tried to commit suicide late last month. There have even been suggestions that he had agreed to step down as Mayor in return for federal investigators dropping two investigations of alleged financial wrongdoing.

Mr Barry or his spokesmen have denied these reports, and the FBI has reportedly found nothing to substantiate tips alleging the Mayor was back on drugs. But one of his closest friends, a boxing promoter named Rock Newman, fanned speculation by publicly urging Mr Barry to resign so he could focus on "a battle for personal survival". Asked if Mr Barry was back on drugs, Mr Newman hesitated and then refused to answer.

Mr Barry's own explanation, which apparently satisfied no one, was that he was exhausted by the burden of running a city near bankruptcy and had not fully recovered from a prostate cancer operation last December. The burdens have certainly been great. When Mr Barry returned to office in January last year, the 60-year-old Mayor was forced to disclose that the city he had run for 12 of the previous 16 years faced a $722 million (£491 million) deficit and was virtually broke.

Washington's grand monuments now obscure a capital in deep distress. Property prices are falling. The city has the highest Aids rate and second-highest murder rate in the country. The police are demoralised and so short of money that officers have had to buy petrol for their cars.

Time magazine recently renamed the District of Columbia the "district of calamity". Harry Jaffe, editor of the *Washingtonian* magazine, is tired of Mr Barry's continuing public struggle to overcome his past addictions. The real question, he suggested, was: "At what point do we kick the habit of Marion Barry?"



Hezbollah commandos attend a festival in Beirut to honour "martyrs" killed while fighting the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon

Israelis reject UN blame for Qana massacre

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM AND JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

ISRAEL last night dismissed as "absurd" a United Nations report claiming it was unlikely that the shelling which caused last month's massacre of more than 100 civilians in Qana, south Lebanon, was accidental. The Israelis also accused the UN of harbouring armed Hezbollah fighters at the base where it took place.

Israeli army officials showed journalists footage from a pilotless Israeli reconnaisance aircraft or "drone", which they said disproved allegations that artillery had been deliberately aimed at the camp where hundreds of civilians were sheltering on April 18.

Earlier, Lieutenant-General Amnon Shahak, the Israeli Chief of Staff, said that "only a twisted mind could believe Israel set out deliberately to fire on the UN camp at Qana".

Israeli officials said the evidence shown to reporters yesterday had been ignored by UN investigators, "maybe because the UN has tough questions to answer about how come ... those Hezbollah terrorists felt so at home in the compound of the UN".

Leaked video footage shot by a UN soldier showing an Israeli drone flying close to Qana formed the basis of the critical report prepared for Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN Secretary-General. Israel insists that the drone was sent close to the camp only after it had been hit by shells.

Yesterday it emerged that Israeli Intelligence claimed to have determined from funeral records that two Hezbollah guerrillas were among the dead in the base. The UN report said that guerrillas had fired three volleys of shells from near the base shortly before the Israeli attack. Two or three Hezbollah men then ran into the compound to join their families.

Privately, UN investigators are convinced that Israel knew at the time of the attack that the Hezbollah guerrillas had fled into the compound. The Israelis have denied this. The UN investigation indicated that Israel had fired anti-personnel shells into the base while artillery normally used to destroy equipment was launched at the Hezbollah mortar position.

The UN's unusual decision to publish the results of its investigation in full sparked a diplomatic dispute yesterday, with America denouncing the report's findings.

Minstrel cabaret stops the show at black summit

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

TWO top international travel companies that offered a black and white minstrel-style show to leaders of an African-American summit in Senegal are being sued for $5 million (£3.3 million).

The crooning cabaret led to a near riot and the performers were ushered off stage amid allegations from the Americans that the "politically incorrect" show was not acceptable.

Club Med and American Express Travel are being sued in a New York court by the conference organisers. The International Foundation for Education and Self-Help and the African-African American Summit, which invited prominent American blacks to Senegal for a week of political discussion, said that the Al Jolson-style show had caused "shock, humiliation, anger and outrage".

The cabaret was held last May at the Club Med Village in Les Almadies before an audience of 700 delegates, many of them black American civil rights activists. The 5,000-strong conference included the Rev Jesse Jackson and Ronald Brown, the late US Commerce Secretary.

Two white singers appeared on stage, their faces blacked-up and lips emboldened with red paint. They blinked their eyes in wonder and emphasised their "Ds". The minstrels were mid-way through their second number when they were directed to leave the stage by the Rev Leon H. Sullivan, president of the international foundation. Mr Sullivan, whose Sullivan Principles are credited with helping to dismantle apartheid in South Africa, is a plaintiff in the suit filed this week in a New York federal court.



Minstrel show: few laughs at summit

On the night of the show he was given an on-the-spot apology by Club Med managers, but now fears that repercussions from the incident "tainted much of what was achieved" at the conference, which was held to discuss the economic development of sub-Saharan Africa.

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De Klerk dissents as South Africa adopts constitution

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN CAPE TOWN

SOUTH AFRICA'S national assembly adopted a new constitution yesterday which, in the words of its chief negotiator, is the "birth certificate" of the Rainbow Nation. But, far from being a happy family occasion, members of the National Party suggested it contains the seeds of a damaging rift.

Whoops of delight, singing and ululating from the African National Congress benches greeted the announcement that an overwhelming majority of the 490-member constitutional assembly, comprising both houses of parliament, had voted to adopt a permanent post-apartheid constitution, the fruits of two years of negotiations. Government ministers danced in the aisles, backbenchers chanting "ANC, ANC" punched the air and Winnie Mandela swayed in time to a freedom song echoing around the chamber.

However, the welcome given to the result by those who had agreed to submerge their misgivings about the Bill and vote in favour was more restrained. F. W. de Klerk, the National Party leader and Second Deputy President, said decisions taken at the climax of negotiations would be studied by his party's federal council at a meeting next week, prompting fresh speculation that he may pull his party out of the two-year-old Government of national unity. His comments sent the troubled rand crashing 12 cents against the dollar. Shares and bonds were also affected.

> "There is much in this new constitution with which we are not satisfied"

Yesterday's historic decision marked the completion of a constitution-making process begun, in effect, when Mr de Klerk, then President, flung open the gates of freedom in February 1990 and started talks with the previously banned and exiled opposition. The new law replaces the transitional constitution that came into force after all-race elections in April 1994, which were won by President Mandela and his ANC.

Approval was secured after an eleventh-hour agreement between the ANC and the former ruling National Party on key education, labour and property clauses.

The deadlock and brinkmanship of recent weeks, which were compounded by a strike that sent jitters through South Africa's troubled financial markets, ended about midnight on Tuesday when the ANC gave ground on the future of mainly white Afrikaans-language schools and the protection of property accrued under apartheid.

In exchange, the National Party was forced to accept a labour relations clause that failed to guarantee the rights of business and industry to protect themselves from strikes by locking out workers.

"There is much in this constitution with which we are not satisfied," Mr de Klerk said to jeers from ANC MPs and senators. "Ultimately, we are voting 'yes' because we can say that by standing firm we have achieved a constitution that we can live with."

Mr de Klerk said his support was motivated partly by the fact that a "no" vote would have forced the country into a divisive referendum that would have damaged investor confidence further.

A senior National Party official put the chances of the party leaving the Government at 50-50. Under the new constitution, the national unity Government will cease to exist in 1999 and there has been increasing pressure from sections of the party for it to stand on its feet.

The result of the negotiations is a constitution that provides for unitary government with "federal fig leaves" that does not really suit the National Party. The new National Council of Provinces, with permanent and floating members, which replaces the Senate, is expected not to enhance provincial powers but rather to impinge on them. That could pinch the National Party in the Western Cape, the only province it controls. The National Party has also been defeated on its demands for entrenched power-sharing after 1999 and, although the ANC is not expected to tamper with Afrikaans education, failure to get single-medium education entrenched in the new document is also cause for concern for the party.



Winnie Mandela dances outside parliament in Cape Town after the new South African constitution was approved

Hardline Hindus lead in exit poll

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN DELHI

THE Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), buoyed by an exit poll, opened contacts with smaller parties yesterday to build a coalition government to replace the long-ruling Congress Party.

As the count of votes began, early trends confirmed the findings of an exit poll showing the Congress Party of P.V. Narasimha Rao, the Prime Minister, doing worse than ever before. Despite claims by the BJP that it was exploring coalition prospects, the expected, inconclusive outcome will mean weeks of political uncertainty.

With 150 constituencies reporting partial results, Congress was losing about one of every two seats that it had won in the 1991 election, most of them in its former stronghold in southern India, state-run television reported. In the first declared race, a former member of Mr Rao's Cabinet, B. Shankaranand, lost his seat to a National Front candidate.

The exit poll predicted that the BJP will overtake the Congress Party in the 545-seat Lok Sabha (lower house) for the first time. The National Front, an alliance of left-wing, low-caste and regional parties, was in third place.

Russia seeks to defuse spying row

BY RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW AND MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

RUSSIA'S "phoney war" over alleged British spying yesterday fizzled out as quickly as it had blown up, after Moscow sought to defuse the three-day espionage row and avoid tit-for-tat expulsions with London.

As the two sides maintained official silence over the dispute, a British diplomat confirmed that "discussions are continuing" with the Russians, who had earlier threatened to expel nine diplomats.

The softening of the Russian position with Britain was partly due to a separate spying row in which Estonian authorities announced in Tallinn that a Russian diplomat was expelled yesterday for espionage. This prompted the Russians to send home an Estonian diplomat from Moscow.

The new conciliatory tone with the British was most noticeable at the Lubyanka, the former KGB headquarters, which now houses the Federal Security Service (FSB). Using Cold War rhetoric, it had accused the British of recruiting a middle-aged, middle-ranking Russian official who passed secret political and defence documents to British intelligence in return for payment. The FSB changed its tone yesterday.

"The question of expelling embassy employees from Russia is on the agenda, but the time and number of diplomats to be announced persona non grata is still to be discussed," one FSB source said. The matter now seems to be in the hands of Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister and former Soviet spy chief, whose officials have gone to extraordinary lengths to play down the rift with Britain and emphasise the need to mend relations.

Britain maintained diplomatic silence on the spy row yesterday, although there were clear hints that the Government believes the threat of expulsions has been lifted.

Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, said Britain did not want anything to jeopardise relations with Moscow. He added: "We hope that continuing discussions will produce an amicable conclusion to this regrettable incident. We await further news of the Russians' intentions."

In Whitehall, officials said they believed the ball was in the Russians' court, but that there would be no swift outcome. They suggested that as time passed, the atmosphere would become calmer and a diplomatic solution more likely.

Officials said contacts in Moscow were continuing yesterday. It is expected that the two sides will reach a secret agreement whereby some British diplomats may be asked to leave quietly, avoiding a public dispute and limiting any reciprocal action from London.

Quiet British envoy is key to settlement

BY MICHAEL BINYON



Wood: suited to such a sensitive situation

BRITAIN is relying on Sir Andrew Wood, its Ambassador to Moscow, to ensure that an unfortunate incident does not become a serious diplomatic rift.

In an age when it is fashionable to decry traditional diplomatic skills and the role of an ambassador, an end to the spy row now depends almost entirely on the personal qualities, negotiating tactics and personality of Sir Andrew.

The Government is lucky. He is a diplomat, unlike some of his more pompous predecessors, who is consummately suited to dealing with just such a sensitive situation.

One of the vital lessons learnt by old Russia hands is that the Russians do not like to lose face. Any confrontation intended to force them to back down is unlikely to succeed: any diplomatic approach based on an assertion of national rights or a loud protestation of innocence is bound to fail. Russians often admit they are more Asian than European: form is as important as substance; dignity as truth.

A soft-spoken, shrewd and modest man, Sir Andrew, who has served three times in Moscow, has an instinctive understanding of the Russian negotiating code. Not everything need be spelt out. Russians do not need to be told when they are lying; a look in the eye is enough. Though rigid and bureaucratic in public, Russians are privately intimidated by elaborate formality, and prefer Westerners who treat them as equals and on a friendly, human level.

Sir Andrew also has a ready understanding of the predicament of Yevgeni Primakov, the Foreign Minister. He knows the divisions and competing interests in the Russian Government. He knows also that these are not matters to be discussed, even if the two sides take them for granted.

Discretion is Sir Andrew's other quality. A breach of confidentiality, as can happen with outspoken American diplomats, would sabotage any hint of agreement.

Philip Howard, page 17

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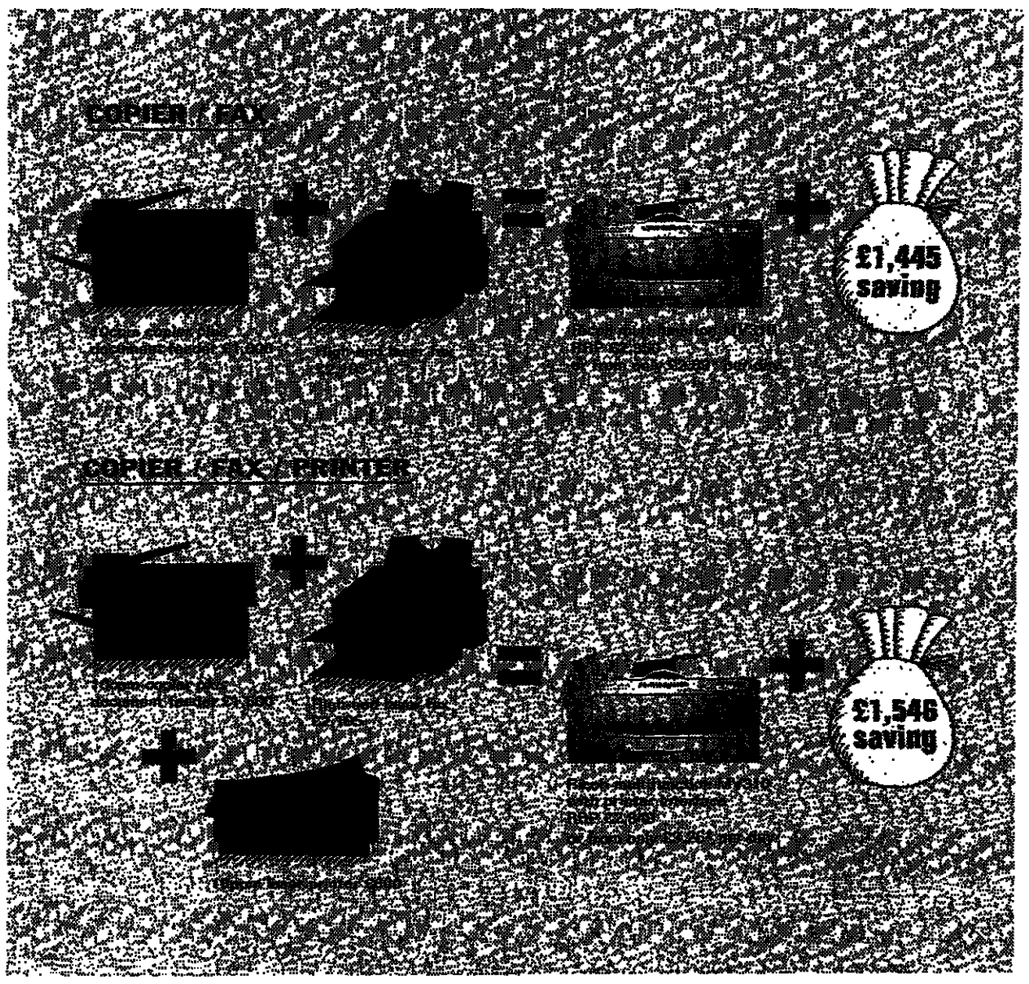
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MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

THERE are two principal types of pneumonia, lobar and broncho. Although broncho-pneumonia is more common and is the result of an extension of the inflammation from bronchitis into the neighbouring lung, lobar pneumonia still affects one in a thousand people every year.

Before antibiotics altered its pattern, lobar pneumonia was a ready source of drama for authors. Usually one entire lobe of the lung is infected, but if the drama needed to be heightened two lobes could be involved and the plot would contain dark references to double pneumonia. Lobar pneumonia often starts in a patient who already has a cold. The attack begins with shivering and develops into a high fever, with pain on breathing, breathlessness and a cough which produces a rusty coloured sputum. Lobar pneumonia was a melodramatic disease because it ran a relentless predictable course which, before antibiotics, doctors were powerless to influence.

The patient became progressively worse until the crisis point, when there was either sudden resolution or death. One evening a patient would appear to be at death's door, with a temperature of up to 105, delirious, with a racing pulse and a painful cough. Next morning, if he or she survived the crisis, the patient would be virtually free of the high temperature, lucid but weak, and often asking the gathered relatives what all the fuss was about.

The most common organism to be found in the case of lobar pneumonia is the pneumococcus. Although the classic picture of pneumococcal lobar pneumonia is now rarely seen, as antibiotics prescribed early on prevent the classic disease, the infection is still a potential killer. Lobar pneumonia is particularly lethal when the patients are young, elderly or have a diminished resistance. One complication, pneumococcal meningitis, is more likely to cause lasting brain damage than meningococcal meningitis, but more often the pneumococcus is responsible for acute or chronic ear infections, and occasionally pleurisy or lung abscesses.

Dr John Simpson, a consultant in communicable diseases in West Sussex, writing in *Pulse* magazine, has reviewed the situation in regard to immunisation against pneumococcal infections. It is recommended that all patients over the age of two who have had a spleen removed should have immunisation against pneumococcus. A doctor who failed to advise his patient to have this injection was recently sued. Other groups in whom vaccination is essential are those with chronic kidney disease and patients who are immunodeficient, either because of disease or because of drugs they are taking, particularly steroids. It is also recommended for patients with chronic heart, lung and liver disease and those suffering from diabetes.

There are 84 different types of pneumococcus and the vaccine only covers the patient against 28. But this does include the ten varieties which cause 70 per cent of the disease. Only one injection is needed except in patients without a spleen, or who have some forms of severe kidney disease; they need a booster after every five to ten years.

The trace element for young and old



THE large number of octogenarians in some Norfolk churchyards has been attributed to the high level of selenium found in local soil, and therefore in home-grown vegetables and wholemeal flour. Selenium is a trace element which has antioxidant powers capable, it is suggested, of stopping free radicals damaging DNA.

Research published in the *British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology* has investigated selenium's influence when the embryo is still intra uterine. Vets have been giving selenium supplements to sheep for some years to reduce spontaneous abortion, but nobody had studied its effect in women. The research team found that selenium levels were significantly lower in women who had had a miscarriage in the first three months of pregnancy than those in control groups.

In a review of the research, *Monitor*, a journal for GPs, recommends against selenium supplements in pregnancy until more detailed research has been completed.

Out of sight and out of mind



GHOST stories which owe their origins to hallucinations in an elderly patient with Lewy body dementia, or hypnagogic dreams, experienced at the moment the patient drops off to sleep, have received publicity recently. *The Lancet* has now published research into another group of patients who have visual hallucinations. These people are elderly and near blind, but psychologically well orientated and without evidence of delusions or signs of dementia.

A feature of the hallucinations was that the patients had an understanding of them, and however real the images they experienced seemed, they were never in any doubt that they were hallucinations. The association of visual handicap and hallucinations, described as Bonnet's Syndrome, is more common than supposed. Dutch doctors surveyed 505 visually handicapped patients and found that sensory deprivation had induced these hallucinations in 12 per cent.



DENZIL MCNEELANCE

Prunella Briance launched the NCT after her daughter was stillborn: "I have always been very strong, but that experience knocked me down"

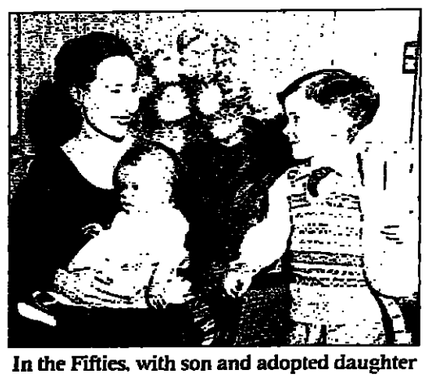
Birth of a natural idea

The National Childbirth Trust was launched 40 years ago. **Aileen Ballantyne** talks to its founder, Prunella Briance

Prunella Briance, aged 70, founder of the National Childbirth Trust, has an important question when we meet in her West London home. "Do you have a daughter?" she asks. No, I say, I have a son. "That's a pity," she replies, "because it's so important that all mothers should pass on to their daughters that childbirth is a joyous thing, and not something to be feared."

She clearly has a mission to ensure that every woman she meets is imbued, as she is, with supreme confidence in a woman's ability to take charge of the birth of her child and do it successfully.

She founded the trust — which celebrated its 40th anniversary last week — with an advertisement in the personal columns of *The Times* on May 4, 1956. She cheerfully bounds up three flights of her narrow four-storey terrace home to show it to me. The main people, then, who seemed in need of teaching were doctors and midwives, if Mrs Briance's recollections are anything to go by. Despite the clipped Enid-Blytonesque style of her first newsletter for the Natural Childbirth Association (as it was then called), it contains the basis of the modern NCT and the "woman-centred" care that is now official Government policy.



In the Fifties, with son and adopted daughter

"We are training mothers precisely for birth. She will know the squatting position, lying back on pillows at an angle of 45 degrees as shown in *Antenatal Illustrated*, she will have been trained for this and her training would be completely wasted if, at the moment of birth, she were forbidden to use it, denied cushions, or turned on her side for delivery, which is a frequent custom."

She feels childbirth is a natural skill which we are still today in great danger of losing. Yet her vibrant ability to pass on confidence in it is born not of joyous personal experience, but of enormous sadness. The events that led her to found the NCT began when her second child, a daughter, was stillborn after a birth she believes to have been mishandled by staff at a London hospital in 1955.

Her first child, Richard, was born in Cyprus in 1953 in a planned Caesarean birth — performed because of a condition known as placenta praevia. Determined to have a natural birth second time around, she found out about the principles of the natural childbirth pioneer, Dr Grantly Dick-Read, who believed that fear heightened the pain of childbirth; fear led to tension, and tension to pain.

Mrs Briance said she was following Dr Dick-Read's principles herself successfully and painlessly during this second birth until the healthcare staff intervened.

"A young midwife gave me a leg-up on to a delivery bed no bigger than an ironing board and managed to drop me quite heavily in the process. I was then told 'hurry up, we can't be here all night'. From then on, lying in that position, flat on my back with no cushions, it was like trying to give birth uphill. Then the baby — a little girl — was born dead. I have always been a very strong person, but that whole experience really knocked me down for a time," she says.

Rather than allowing her grief to turn in on itself, she wrote the advertisement that led to the birth of the NCT. Between offers of tickets for Wimbledon's Centre Court and private Russian lessons, it read: "A natural childbirth association is to be formed 'for the promotion and better understanding of the DICK-READ system' — Anyone interested write Box T.287."

In 1957, before moving temporarily to America to allow her diplomat husband to take up a post at the British Embassy, she further came to terms with her sadness when she adopted her daughter, Alimary. "I found her at a foster home in north London — and she looked at me with her brown eyes. The home said she was booked for a family in South Africa. I argued that no-one could take a child without seeing her first, and asked them to tell the mother my story. In the end, the mother said she wanted me to have her. The staff asked me if I wanted to know details of Alimary's medical history, but I only wanted to ask the mother, through them, about the birth. She said it was an easy birth and commented 'she came out like a champagne cork'.

"In America, groups like the NCT were studying evidence that certain disorders were caused during traumatic births. I don't know how hard that evidence is. All I know is that Alimary has always been a tremendous joy."

She refuses to dwell on the small number of births where things can go wrong. "The worst thing any older woman can do is to tell a younger woman horror stories about birth," she says. She is, however, scathing on the generalities of the worst types of birth which prevailed in the late 1950s, particularly in America, where she lived for three years. "I once went into a ward and saw six women lying, knocked out and trussed up like turkeys, waiting to be delivered by the doctor before he went off for his afternoon's golf."

In London, she says, things were little better. She was told by a matron when she was three months pregnant that she was going to be examined internally by a group of medical students. "There were 13 of them and when I objected the matron said, 'This is the National Health Service and you do as you are told.' Thankfully, probably because I objected, only one of them examined me."

In births with no complications — which she estimates at 96 per cent of all births — Mrs Briance believes women should be able to give birth in a quiet, unhurried way with minimal interruptions. Pain relief should be available but only if the woman wants it.

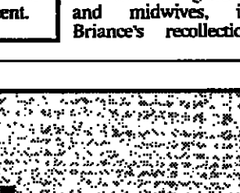
"My father was the youngest of 19 children, born to two mothers, all of them naturally. They were born all over the British Empire in different places. In those days, before birth was medicalised, women knew how to give birth and knew how to get medical help if they needed it. Once doctors start intervening routinely it leads to tension and to pain. Many of the scientific advances we have now are truly amazing — but we should be careful that in using the new skills we don't lose the old ones."

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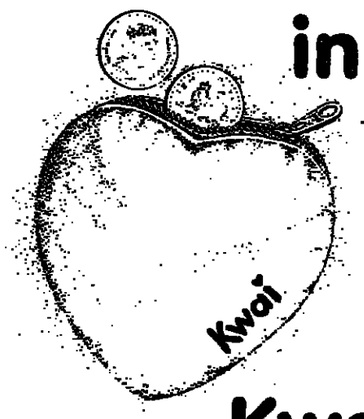
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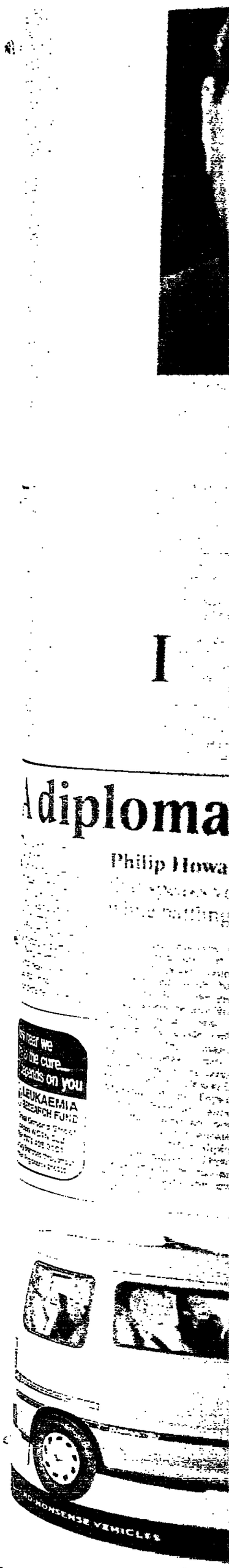
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The battle for Doris's fortune

Marcus Scriven investigates the intriguing case of the the doomed heiress, the suspicious lawyer and the manservant who inherited millions

Five thirty on the morning of October 28, 1993, was a good moment in the life of Bernard Lafferty, a pony-tailed, illiterate Irish drunk with a taste for cruising the gay bars of LA: it was the moment when Doris Duke died.

As she did so, she bequeathed him a sum of $5 million (£3.3 million) and an annual stipend of $500,000 for life. She also left him in charge of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

Lafferty, who had been Miss Duke's butler, began celebrating in characteristic fashion. He bought flowers for his boyfriend and for Elizabeth Taylor, and spent $2,000 having his hair tinted "Doris Duke Blonde". He used $54,000 of foundation money to buy a Cadillac, which soon afterwards he drove over three cars parked on Sunset Boulevard.

He bought himself long gowns, snakeskin boots and a $3,000 gold bracelet — presumably so that he would do justice to the gilt throne and dais which he had installed in Doris Duke's old bedroom.

But now, two and a half years on, his party may be drawing to a close, thanks to the testimony of Colin Shanley, Ann Bostich and Mariano De Velasco — respectively chef, housekeeper and caretaker at Falcon's Lair, Doris's Beverley Hills mansion — and the determination of Raymond Dowd, the fledgling 31-year-old lawyer who is representing them.

The three staff have provided a chilling chronicle of Lafferty's conduct in those final months, during which, they allege, he prevented Doris from seeing or speaking to members of her family; arranged for her to alter her will in his favour at a time when she barely knew what she was doing; and, finally, on the evening of October 27, 1993, declared: "Miss Duke is going to die tonight" — a prophecy which he is said to have helped to fulfil by having her body pumped full of morphine.

Hours after her "natural" death, Lafferty had his employer cremated, thereby eliminating any chance of an irksome post-mortem.

When Colin Shanley began making sworn statements about these and other unorthodox aspects of Lafferty's behaviour, the former butler responded by hiring a lawyer, Howard Weitzman, whose previous clients have included John DeLorean and O.J. Simpson.

Shanley was not in the same league; indeed, he had barely dealt with a lawyer in his life. But he did know one. In 1985, he had been employed at The Inn, Quogue, on Long Island. One of the waiters had been a college student called Ray Dowd who was doing vacation work to pay his tuition fees.

Several years later, Shanley received a letter from Dowd saying that he had just established his own law practice in New York. Shanley got in touch.

Initially, Dowd was sceptical, warning Shanley that his only experience of criminal law had been gained at law school. Nevertheless, he agreed to fight Shanley's case of unfair dismissal. Since then, however, it has escalated to the extent that a jury may be called upon to decide whether or not Doris Duke was murdered.

And Dowd appears to be winning, to the astonishment and delight of Pony Duke, Doris's godson and the son of her cousin, Angier Duke. "Ray Dowd is fighting for justice," says Duke. "He's taken on all the dragons here, with no money, he's been disgustingly honest and he's given his opponents all fits. He has an office about the size of your bathroom and he's up against about 30 attorneys."

Dowd notched up his latest triumph on Tuesday in the Surrogate Court, Manhattan, where he persuaded the judge to reject a proposed settlement by which Lafferty would have relinquished his position as Doris Duke's executor and as head of the foundation, in return for keeping his hands on his $5 million and annual $500,000 handout.


SYGMA

The butler: Lafferty was made rich by Doris's death

The young attorney's own proposal, as an interim settlement, is that a member of the Duke family should be appointed as head of Doris's charitable foundation. If he succeeds in this, he will bring the Duke family back from the margins of Doris's life, to which it seemed to have been permanently exiled since February 1993.

It was then that Doris rang her cousin, Angier Duke, the former head of protocol at the White House during the Kennedy presidency, asking him to find her a new, "honest and capable" lawyer.

He responded by sending Doris a fax recommending that she use his son Pony's lawyer. He concluded by telling her that he was planning to go to Japan in mid-April and suggested that, if she were at either of her residences in Los Angeles or Hawaii, he might stop en route to see her.

In fact, neither he nor any other member of the family was to speak to Doris again, let alone visit her, in what, it transpired, were to be the last eight months of her life.

Nor did Doris ever take on a new lawyer. Instead, just a few weeks later, in April 1993, her old lawyer, William Doyle, helped her to sign a new will in extraordinary circumstances.

According to Ann Bostich: "Miss Duke's bed was raised so that she was in an upright position; she was not talking, moving or even looking at anyone. Doyle gave Miss Duke the document which he wanted her to sign . . . He slid his own hand under her wrist. He propped her hand up with his hand. Doyle then pushed her hand along the page, guiding the hand."

That one pathetic, almost passive signature ended family control of the Duke fortune. In the following months, those who inquired about Doris were told: "Madam is fine but unable to come to the phone."

The voice was Lafferty's. The Irishman, born and bred in County Donegal, had become Doris's butler after being introduced to her by Chandi Heffner, an unscrupulous fortune hunter who had convinced Doris that she was the reincarnation of her dead baby daughter Arden, and who was subsequently adopted as a 35-year-old by Doris for three volatile years. Even when, three years later, Doris partially disentangled herself from Chandi, Lafferty stayed on.

Initially, according to Shanley, Lafferty had a "very limited role". But, as Doris weakened, Lafferty increased his influence. After a while, he felt able to ignore Doris's requests. Until then, Doris had always had her own way. As soon as she was born, she had a principal nanny, a personal maid, a clothing maid, a laundress and four nurses, three bodyguards, and a chauffeur for her own Rolls-Royce.

She was 12 when her father died, bequeathing her, his only child, $100 million. Thereafter, if she wanted something, she bought it — whether it was a house, an aeroplane or a lover.

At the end, though, her whims remained unanswered. Aside from monitoring her telephone calls, Lafferty eliminated "unwanted" visitors, among them Doris's nephew, Walker Inman.

"Walker had left his car at Doris's," explains Pony Duke. "He went back to collect it and they wouldn't let him in. They actually had the car wheeled outside the gates."

Then, on October 27, 1993, the butler held a meeting with Charles Kivowitz, Doris's doctor, Henry Glassman, her plastic surgeon, and William Doyle, the lawyer who had so considerately guided Doris's hand. After the meeting, Doris was repeatedly injected with morphine by Dr Kivowitz, in order to relieve her pain, he said. She died at 5.30 on the following morning.

Shortly afterwards, Lafferty called Angier Duke. "She died early this morning," the butler said. "She was not in pain."

When Angier asked when the funeral service would be held, Lafferty replied: "No, we don't intend on having a service. She didn't want a service."

Angier was left to ponder what kind of servant would use the phrase "we don't intend on having a service". The answer became apparent when the will was read.

It would, perhaps, be fitting if it were Angier who dislodged Lafferty as head of his cousin's charitable trust. But that is no longer possible. Some 18 months after Doris's death, Angier, 78, clamped on his Sony Walkman and headed out onto the streets to indulge his latest passion — roller-blading. He probably never heard the car that killed him.

Consequently, his son Pony may take his place, should Ray Dowd have his way. Such an appointment would have a pleasing symmetry: Pony's godmother did him many favours in his youth which at the time he did not quite appreciate. For his twenty-first birthday, she gave him a pair of sapphire cufflinks; he lost them. Later, in 1960, he stayed with Doris in Paris.

Duke does not expect the former butler to go quietly. "He got a taste of power and got used to it. I think he's a very bitter man."

And of the man responsible for that, Ray Dowd, the former Long Island waiter? "This case is going to establish him," says Duke, "as long as he's not assassinated."



Rich, spoilt, doomed: Doris Duke is said to have fallen completely under the control of her butler

A diplomat must think twice before saying nothing

Philip Howard on a language that speaks volumes to the initiated while baffling outsiders

This latest *démarche* about British and Russian spies has turned an inappropriate searchlight on the jargon of diplomacy. Other sectional vocabularies seek to convey information. However, the fine art of diplomacy is to say nothing — particularly when being interviewed.

Diplomatspeak is an international but tribal code of language perfected over centuries. Like masonic rituals and pretentious art catalogues, it speaks volumes to the initiated, while baffling outsiders. It is designed to make others believe that you believe what you don't believe. To guide outsiders through the maze of Diplomatspeak, here are some notes on the jargon by the Chief of Protocol and Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps. These are aimed at diplomats who are now expected to communicate not just with fellow-diplomats (who are native to Diplomatspeak and to the mannerism born) but with the general public as well.

A1. As a spokesman for the Foreign Office (State Department/*Quai d'Orsay*/Foreign Ministry) your duty is to think twice before saying nothing.

B1. To this end, chameleon words are useful. A chameleon is the opposite to a weasel word. A weasel word (eg, situation, parameter, objective, subjective) sucks the meaning out of the words to which it is attached, as a weasel sucks eggs. A chameleon word changes its colour to conform to the prejudices of the reader or listener.

B2. For example, "appropriate" is an ideal diplomatic screen. HMG's responses are by definition appropriate. "In appropriate cases" means "whenever we feel like doing it". Similar words such as "right", "proper", "suitable" and "fitting" are too definite for Diplomatspeak. "Apposite" is a learned synonym, usually mispronounced with stress on the last syllable to avoid confusion with "opposite".



A way with words: Sir Alec Douglas-Home in his heyday

C1. Diplomatspeak is as rich as the jargon of estate agents in its meaningful euphemisms. "Full and frank" — a bloody good row. "Business-like" — cold, unfriendly. "Matters of mutual interest" — areas where we disagree. "The Foreign Secretary expressed his concern" — we don't like this one little bit. "With the full co-operation of our allies" — this is one where we have gone it alone. "Protracted" — this one will run and run. "Recalled for consultations" — we're going to get you for this. "A difficult situation" — they are bombing our embassy. "It is well-known that..." — and here comes another economy with the truth.

D1. In these undeferential times, use the rule of inverse naming. Patronise your interviewers by getting in first with their first names. "Fred, Samantha..." as though speaking to a retarded four-year-old. Then freeze them by switching to handle and surname: "Mr Scorp, Ms Pencil."

D2. In Diplomatspeak, yes means perhaps. Perhaps means no. And if you say no, you are no diplomat. Diplomacy is the art of skating on thin ice without getting into hot water. For diplomats are for averting inappropriate situations that would never occur if there were no diplomats.

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Should auld Unionism be forgot?

Magnus Linklater on a dissident at the Scottish Tory conference

It seemed easy enough to define English nationalism last weekend from the back of a lawnmower in a Gloucestershire garden. Although I could not quite detect what Stanley Baldwin called "the sound of the scythe on the whetstone, and the sight of the plough team coming over the brow of the hill", there were still hamlets of Cotswold stone nestling in green folds, blackthorn hedgerows in flower, doves cooing on cottage roofs, and that modern equivalent of the scythe — the strimmer — hard at work rooting out the nasty bits. Those images still seem to capture the essence of Englishness. Others see in English nationalism only the nasty bits: lager louts in Union Jack shorts, truculence, distrust of foreigners, the shabbiness of city life.

Neither stereotype, of course, entirely fits the bill, and the truth is that for donkey's years no one has felt the need to define it at all. Englishness and Britishness have been more or less synonymous, at least south of the border. Only the other day, on the *Today* programme, I heard the terms interchanged in the course of a single sentence.

But that may no longer be good enough. The more talk there is of nationalism in Scotland, the more it drifts south. A recent spate of articles has explored the idea that moves towards autonomy in Scotland could encourage an equal and opposite reaction in England.

So far, however, the idea that separatism might have anything to do with Toryism has been confined to the ranks of maverick right-wing backbenchers. But it has been given unexpected spin this week in a book by the former Scottish Office minister Allan Stewart, MP for Eastwood. Mr Stewart has an advantage not shared by his fellow Tories north of the border, a comfortable majority of more than 11,000. By publishing his views on nationalism on the eve of the Scottish Conservative Party Conference which opens today in Aberdeen, he has ensured that they will be widely discussed.

He argues that independence for Scotland would benefit the Conservative Party both north and south of the border. While Unionism is worth fighting for, he does not believe that surrendering it would be a disaster. Scottish Tories would be freed from the taint of Englishness and could regain the centre-right ground which they have lost over the past 20 years, while in England Tories would once again be the natural party of government.

Mr Stewart envisages what might happen if Labour wins the next election committed to introducing a Scottish parliament. Business and industry, he claims, would be driven away by a high-tax regime, and the result would be to send the Scots further down the road to complete independence. "A swift move from devolution to separation might occur in any event, even during the next parliament," he writes.

And that, he argues, would play into the hands of a Conservative Party offering low taxes and sound economic policies. "The party advantage in England is obvious," says Mr Stewart. "Without Labour's Scottish majority to contend with, the Conservatives would have a much higher chance of obtaining control at Westminster."

This is not a wholly new idea, and it sounds suspiciously like one advanced recently by Lord McAlpine, the former party treasurer and confidant of Margaret Thatcher. He too appeared sanguine about the idea of independence, and thought it would greatly benefit the party.

Heady as all this talk may sound, and superficially attractive to the beleaguered Tories arriving in Aberdeen this morning, it is built on a fallacy. The proposition that a separated Scotland would turn readily to a right-wing brand of Conservatism is, at best, wishful thinking. Scotland may not be as naturally left-wing as some Labour politicians believe, but it is hardly fertile territory for neo-Thatcherism, as the present Scottish Secretary, Michael Forsyth, knows all too well.

> England stands to benefit from continuing the Union

There is an element of mischief-making here. By polarising the debate between Unionism and independence, by claiming that devolution would simply place Scotland on the slippery slope to separation, Mr Stewart and his colleagues on the Right are encouraging voters to opt for one of the two extremes, rather than the centre, where the majority rests at the moment.

But it is a specious case. When asked, and they have been asked repeatedly, the Scots patiently and routinely respond that they do not want independence. They want to stay within the Union; but they want a greater degree of control of their own affairs, and they believe that a parliament in Edinburgh offers just that. This is a sensible ambition. What is more, it is the best hope for the Conservatives in Scotland in their quest to reclaim the centre ground, not the Right. They might do very well in a devolved Scotland, taking part in a Scottish parliament and arguing their case from inside, rather than from the wings.

As for England, it surely stands to benefit more from continuance of the Union that has served it so well for the past 289 years than from a narrow and retrograde nationalism. Not long ago a thoughtful book about England, written by a Scot, Harry Reid, concluded with a sentence which gets it, in my view, about right: "As a Scot, I sense that England's nationhood is mainly behind it, while Scotland's lies ahead. I have also to admit that we will be doing very well indeed if we do half as well as the English have already done."



"I believe this is an honest portrait and a good likeness....."

Jacques of all policies

Gordon Brown is offering to do here what President Chirac has done in France, and the result will be sclerosis

William Rees-Mogg

Sometimes Gordon Brown seems to be the Jacques Chirac of Britain, though, thank goodness, he is not going to be our president for the next six years. Both men have two-chamber minds; in one chamber they keep one set of ideas, and in the other chamber they keep the opposite set of ideas. When they make speeches they draw alternately on each chamber, and mix the two gases in a lethal cocktail of total confusion. As a result no one can ever guess what it is either man will actually do, though the safe assumption is that neither will do what is needed.

On Tuesday, Gordon Brown was speaking in Bonn: "You cannot build a monetary union on doing nothing about 20 million unemployed," he said. As that is exactly what his German hosts are trying to do, that could be regarded as a healthy Eurosceptic statement of reality. "Britain can no longer afford to stand and carp from the sidelines ... we put our future in jeopardy by being on the outside." There is Gordon Brown's typical Chirac-like contradiction inside a single speech. On the one hand, the current European policy on monetary union has helped to create the Europe of 20 million unemployed, while British unemployment has been falling. On the other hand, Britain cannot afford to stand on the sidelines of this pool of unemployment. Jump in, Gordon, jump in.

We should briefly note that Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, is even more confused than the present Government on the single currency, and it may therefore be a mistake to give him, or his party, the power to decide the issue. But if Gordon Brown is confused, President Chirac remains the European grandmaster of incompatible policies, just as France remains the prime example of the disease of Euro-sclerosis. At the recent Group of Seven meeting at Lille, President Chirac solemnly talked of finding a third way between socialism and capitalism, which he distinguished from the wicked American approach of "hire and fire", by which he meant American labour mobility, relative freedom from regulation, creation of jobs and consequent low unemployment. Certainly France enjoys none of these dangerous Anglo-Saxon benefits.

President Chirac, who will be in Britain on a state visit next week, has now been in office for a year. He started in great unpopularity — he had one of the shortest political honeymoons on record — but has now recovered somewhat in the opinion polls. Nevertheless, his first year has gone badly. His unnecessary nuclear tests alienated the Asian countries, except for China, which is equally willing to pollute the globe. The Chinese were, however, annoyed by the sale of French military aircraft to Taiwan. His most courageous minister, Alain Madelin, was sacked for his bravery because the public-sector unions did not like him.

Alain Juppé, Chirac's Prime Minister, fought and lost the battle of the December strikes, and will no doubt have to be replaced well before the next Assembly elections in two years' time — he has perhaps another year in office. Meanwhile the French economy shows the vices of European stagnation in their most extreme form. Unemployment now stands at 11.9 per cent. In a biting article in yesterday's *Wall Street Journal*, Jean-Pierre Robin of *Le Figaro* points out that since 1980 France has had the lowest annual growth rate of any G7 country, just 2.1 per cent.

The unemployment figure is even worse than it looks. France has very restrictive labour-market regulations; it is both hard and expensive to make people redundant. As a result, unemployment is higher among the young than the old. One quarter of French workers under the age of 25 are unemployed, and 40 per cent of them have been out of work for more than a year. Around Paris, in the sad working-class suburbs which form a circle of poverty around the wealth of the capital, unemployment among the young men has reached at least 30 per cent, a recipe for riots, and a recruiting sergeant for the Far Right.

This high unemployment is not an accident or a misfortune, but the natural consequence of the deliberate policies of successive French governments, of the Bank of France and the whole French political class, who had put the supposed interests of the French State ahead of the real interests of the French people. The State is a colossal consumer of French resources, taking 55 per cent of France's gross national product. No wonder, with that overhead, the French economy is overloaded but the bureaucrats lead a wonderful life.

That is not all. To support this extraordinary burden, French business has to pay extraordinary taxes. Germany also suffers from the European disease of high costs, high taxes and high welfare charges, as even Herr Kohl admits. Yet as Denis Kessler, the vice-president of France's equivalent of Britain's CBI, has stated: "We estimate that French businesses pay 450 billion francs — six per cent of GDP — more in taxes than their German counterparts." When the State over-taxes business, it creates the conditions for high unemployment.

The Bank of France, one of those central banks which believe that deflation is the best medicine for high unemployment, has made its own contribution. France has pegged an overvalued franc to an overvalued mark, leading to the export of jobs and capital from France as well as Germany. In order to keep the franc overvalued, the Bank has maintained real interest rates, after allowing for inflation, at an average of 6 per cent over the past four years. That is highly deflationary.

If one had to devise a policy for stagnation, it would include these elements: high government expenditure, preferably more than 50 per cent of GNP; an overvalued currency; high real interest rates; high taxes and high costs in business; a regulated and immobile labour market; a large bureaucratic public sector with low productivity, protected against competition. All of these handicaps have been consciously created or sedulously maintained in France. They have produced low growth and high unemployment, as any competent economist would have forecast.

In one of the chamber's of his paradoxical mind, President Chirac knows all this. At the election he promised reform, but he fired the only senior minister who believed in it. This week he has been writing in *Le Monde*. Some of what he says is excellent stuff. France must move from "a culture of assistance" to "a culture of responsibility". I'm never quite sure what the grander French phrases mean, but I think he is really saying that Lee Kuan Yew is right about the impending bankruptcy of the European welfare system. "In a country like ours, where recourse to the State is second nature, it is necessary to accomplish a revolution in thinking ... reform requires concentration, teaching, explanation."

Reform also requires the right policies. If Europe is to meet global competition, in which the EU is failing so badly, the policies need to be the exact reverse of those which have made France the citadel of stagnation. Jobs need to be created, as they have been in America. That requires a free labour market. The low productivity of the public sector can be put right only by privatisation. Business taxes are costs, and like other costs they should be reduced to a minimum. Personal savings need to be raised closer to the Asian level.

If Europe is to be competitive, all of the intolerable handicaps need to be removed. The example of the most competitive world economies is clear enough. But there is a European mentality which regards competitive policies as Thatcherite, Anglo-Saxon, right-wing, uncompassionate and so on. The trouble with President Chirac is that half the time he does not believe what he says, and half the time he does not do what he believes. The same seems to be true of Gordon Brown. That is why their speeches are internally so inconsistent. The high-overhead, corporatist, high-cost, high-unemployment Europe which they sometimes criticise and sometimes accept is a dodo economy; the fat bird cannot run and cannot fly, and is doomed to become extinct.

Mr Blair and the mandarins

Labour won't talk to Whitehall, says **Sue Cameron**

Whitehall's high-flyers are feeling a little low. Tony Blair's successes in the local elections merely emphasised that Labour isn't talking. Not to senior civil servants. And the sound of Labour's silence is causing unease in the corridors of power.

At the start of this year, the Government changed the rules that allow Whitehall to open its doors to members of the Shadow Cabinet. The convention is that within six months of an election, senior Opposition people are permitted to start formal meetings with the permanent secretaries, the Civil Service heads of government departments. This time round, Sir Robin Butler, Cabinet Secretary and head of the home Civil Service, persuaded the Prime Minister to allow the meetings to start much earlier than usual: 15 months before the last date for the election.

All credit to Sir Robin and John Major — though it should be stressed that civil servants and shadow ministers are not meant to discuss Labour policy when they meet under official auspices. They are supposed to restrict themselves to talking about organisational changes that Labour ministers might want. But in real life, organisational changes are inextricably linked to policy plans. Using hypothetical examples, the mandarins can discuss any number of policy proposals while contriving to stay within the rules.

Meetings between Labour and the permanent secretaries sound like a consummation devoutly to be wished by both sides. However good Labour's own advisers may be, the party has nothing that quite matches the Whitehall machine. Mr Blair's team is one of the most inexperienced ever. Only half a dozen of its members have actually been in government. A whole generation of civil servants has risen since 1979, few of whom are on close personal terms with the new Labour generation.

Shadow ministers such as Harriet Harman and Donald Dewar have, it is true, been given courses at Templeton College, Oxford, by retired civil servants, and former permanent secretaries such as Sir Peter Kemp and Sir Nicholas Monck have been coaching Mr Blair's élite. There have been informal contacts with active civil servants, too. Earlier this spring, for example, Mr Blair had dinner with Sir Robin Butler and four of his most likely successors as head of the Civil Service.

So for the past four months, the permanent secretaries have been waiting eagerly for the Labour team to call formally. But Labour has not done so. Mr Blair has insisted that members of his Shadow Cabinet pass up the opportunity to learn first-hand about the departments they shadow and may soon run. Why?

Labour's official line is that meetings with permanent secretaries will soon be under way, and that they have been put off only because it is "clearly" better to hold them as close as possible to a general election. But civil servants are not at all clear about the benefits of delay — particularly as a snap election cannot be ruled out.

Privately, Labour leaders are giving Whitehall a rather different explanation. They say Mr Blair wants plans for the first two years of a Labour government to be in place before he allows his team to meet Whitehall representatives. Shadow ministers have been told to cost their policy proposals and to indicate their legislative priorities. This exercise is not yet finished.

Labour's excuse is that its vulnerability on policy requires every detail to be ready before civil servants are made privy to its plans. Timetabling of constitutional reform is an example. These measures could consume huge amounts of parliamentary time in the early days of a Labour government. Nothing is better guaranteed to dissipate the goodwill of England's 36 million voters than week after weary week of Westminster warfare over Scottish devolution.

Labour sources say the real reason for Mr Blair's circumspection is simple. Labour is worried about being shown up by officials spotting the gaps and flaws in policy proposals. It fears that shadow ministers might let slip something that would cause civil servants to wonder if the party is up to the job. And it is bothered about the Civil Service foisting its own ideas on the Opposition. Labour leaders are concerned that contact with Whitehall might force them to face up to the kind of policy decisions that could damage them electorally. Easier by far to delay the detailed discussions.

But some Labour insiders rightly believe that it would be better to be alerted to problems by Whitehall now than to wait until the election, when inconsistencies are likely to be ruthlessly exposed by the media and the Tories. Labour's present approach seems to be a fatal mixture of arrogance and timidity.

Meanwhile, it would perk up the mandarins no end if Labour leaders were to take the initiative and meet the permanent secretaries. For all their intellectual brilliance, senior civil servants like being led from the front by people who know which way is forward.

New friends

HOTTEST new entrant in the race to be Best Friend to the Princess of Wales is the model Cindy Crawford. The two met last Thursday for a private drink in the mirrored, subterranean Dorchester bar in Park Lane. This follows Miss Crawford's dramatic intervention into the debate about the Princess and the cellulite, when she declared at a handbag launch: "She hasn't got cellulite. It's a vicious rumour. In fact, she looks fantastic and I can take some advice from her."

Miss Crawford makes a change from all the middle-aged therapists the Princess seems drawn to at the moment, and on paper the model-Princess axis looks good.





The Princess and the supermodel: secret rendezvous

DIARY

Miss Crawford is 30, the Princess is 34. Each has a failed marriage behind her, Miss Crawford having separated from the actor Richard Gere. They share an interest in intensive physical exercise and spiritualism, and both know something about posing for photographs. Last year, Miss Crawford gave Prince William the ultimate adolescent treat by visiting Kensington Palace to have tea with him.

"Cindy Crawford invited the Princess, and she went along," says a royal representative. "They have met a couple of times."

The Dorchester adds: "It was a very hush-hush meeting — and the staff were not really meant to know about it."

● *Good news from Harewood House, where Lord Harewood is recovering from his weekend jelly conference. Donald Trump, the American property tycoon, was due to come to the house, near Leeds, as the top act at next week's Yorkshire Business Conference. "The Donald", however, was forced to withdraw, leaving the organisers struggling to find a replacement grand enough yet with time on his hands. Step forward, Lech Walesa, electrician, national hero, former President and now corporate cheerleader.*

No joke

READERS of his diaries might have suspected it all along, but now Alan Clark, the former MP for Plymouth Sutton, has finally come out and said it. The bragging, self-styled lothario is impotent.

In an interview with John Humphrys, to be broadcast on Radio 4's *Against the Ropes* later this month, Clark admits to now being "completely impotent".

Clark, who fathered two sons, and has written openly of his serial trouser-dropping and his fear of impotence — "that utterly negative feeling, void; zero between the loins" — was terse when asked about the matter. "You can regard it as an admission, a joke or a serious confession," he said, "suit yourself. In any case it's so housemaidy to get hung up about it.

"If people take everything that I say seriously," he added menacingly, "they are going to end up getting knotted."

Busy? Never

YESTERDAY's unveiling of the latest painting of the Queen, by Antony Williams, has resurrected the curious question of John Major's apparent phobia about sitting for his portrait. Whenever the National Portrait Gallery asks for one, it is told that the Prime Minister is far too busy to sit. Curious, seeing as the Queen has managed to sit for more than 100 portraits.

"Time is running out for John Major," warns Sir Hugh Leggatt, former honorary adviser to the gallery. "A general election is at hand, and it would be pointless to paint him if he were no longer in office. The Queen is simply marvellous the way she is prepared to sit for artists time after time," he adds. "Why can't Major find the time?"

● *Former Chancellor of the Exchequer turned arch-Eurosceptic, Norman Lamont has found himself a new car sticker to celebrate Europe Day today. It features the European flag with an X stamped across it.*



"This one's the unexpurgated edition"

College girl

ETON COLLEGE was the stop-off for Sir James Goldsmith's Eurosceptic charabanc last week. Goldsmith was speaking to his alma mater's political society, although his rather jumpy Referendum Party first denied it flatly and then only reluctantly admitted the fact.

His message went down well with his teenage audience, but it was overshadowed by the presence of his daughter, Jemima Khan, who inspired much hair-flicking and strutting among the boys. She is, apparently, just the sort of girl Etonians would choose.

P·H·S

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FLAUNT IT

From Royal Court to recording studio — a new age in our art

Deep among rehearsal rooms, recording studios and galleries throughout Britain there is the sense of renaissance. Because the British long ago turned self-deprecation into an art-form of its own, news of this has been diffuse. Its causes too are disputed. But it is there before us, in our theatre, our concert halls, on our radio stations and on film. Something is happening here. We should make sure that more people in more places know about it.

Why are new and better things happening? The millennium itself may not mean much; but its approach has released both money and ideas on how that money should be spent. If Tony Blair becomes Prime Minister, his policies towards the arts may be no different from that of the Conservatives; but the likelihood of a Labour Government after years of Tory rule inevitably raises hopes, at home and abroad.

Commentators overseas already know how regularly Britain produces actors who bring back Oscars. They know of our musicals that run simultaneously and for ever in dozens of cities. But what makes London theatre so compelling today is not the impetus from the stars but that from the young playwrights who tackle contemporary themes with such verve.

Many of these bristling talents have been nurtured by a Royal Court Theatre revitalised by the leadership of director Stephen Daldry. Playwrights Jez Butterworth, Jonathan Harvey and Sarah Kane (author of *Blasted*, which gave the Court its first genuine *succès de scandale* for years) have succeeded in doing what many thought was impossible. By depicting what our theatre critic Benedict Nightingale calls "weird, troubling city landscapes", these writers have persuaded young people to take notice of what is happening in the theatre for the first time in decades. If Hollywood's producers are searching for strong stories told in dialogue that crackles with pungent wit, they should book a season ticket in Sloane Square — and book early.

Alongside the new writers is an exceptional generation of British directors. Some, such as Katie Mitchell and Matthew Warchus, have yet to find international recognition. Others have already made the transition to transatlantic fame. Nicholas Hytner directed *The Madness of George III* at the National and then on film. Jonathan Kent's staging of *Hamlet*, with Ralph Fiennes, leapt from the Hackney Empire to Broadway as if that were the most natural progression in the thespian world. Daldry himself had sensational success in New York with *An Inspector Calls*. Another Royal Court graduate, Danny Boyle, took Irvine Welsh's *Trainspotting* — a funny, touching, frank account of drug addiction — and turned it into the cult success of the year.

The resurgence in British creativity extends beyond stage and screen. Damon Albarn, prime mover of Blur, may have declared that "Britpop as an idea is no longer valid". But Britpop as an export, potentially worth millions, has hardly started. For months the pundits fretted that the new British bands, burdened with lyrics full of very British ironies, would make no impact on the overseas market. Then Oasis took an album and two singles to the top of the American charts. Suddenly the Americans are more interested in our pop music than at any time since the 1960s.

Young British classical composers, James MacMillan, Mark-Anthony Turnage and Julian Anderson, have produced music that comprehensively banishes sterile, cerebral modernism in favour of a style which connects directly with grateful audiences. Passion is back in fashion. Something similar has happened in British contemporary art. Damien Hirst's penchant for pickled fish and stiff cows may be derided by some. But the mordant humour and eye-popping gestures favoured by Hirst, Mark Wallinger, Rachel Whiteread and their contemporaries have made them the finest group of young artists in the world.

It is hard to avoid comparisons with the early Sixties, that older era in which Britain cast off a prevailing sense of grey stagnation in politics as in culture. The parallels are not exact. The mood of the Sixties was swinging and wide-eyed; today's young artists are of a darker, warier disposition. They deal more in debris than dreams. But their talent is unquestionable, and their work powerful and provocative. They are here. We should flaunt them.

VANISHING TAX CUTS

The scope for cuts this autumn has shrunk to nothing

If there has been one consistent ingredient in the modern Tory general election victory, it has been the tax cut. No pre-election Budget has been complete without it; nor has any manifesto failed to contain the promise to cut taxes further. Tax cuts have even determined the timing of elections; indeed one of the strongest arguments this year for delaying the poll until next May has been that November's tax reductions will by then be appreciated and might even blot out the memory of earlier tax rises.

But a pause is necessary. Almost unnoticed, the Government's fiscal position has deteriorated so much that there may be no room for tax cuts this autumn. If so, the Tories' election campaign will have to be rethought. So may its timing. The Conservatives will no longer be able to rely on their most populist measure without risk of ruining the economy.

The stark figures tell the tale. Compared with the plans set out in the November 1994 Budget, the public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR) overshot by an extraordinary £10.7 billion in 1995-96 — equivalent to five pence on or off the standard rate of income tax. The deficit of £32.2 billion (representing 4.5 per cent of GDP) compares with the Chancellor's 1994 forecast of £21.5 billion (3 per cent of GDP). It is even £3.2 billion greater than the forecast made as recently as last November. Moreover, the plan back in 1994 was that this year the PSBR would shrink to just 1.7 per cent of GDP, well within the Maastricht convergence criteria. Instead it looks set to be almost 4 per cent, far exceeding the Maastricht rules.

Responsible Eurosceptics have always believed that Britain should stay out of the European single currency because it could run its domestic policy better than Frankfurt or Brussels. But for Britain to find itself forcibly excluded, along with countries such Italy and Greece, because its public finances were out of control would be another matter.

A large overshoot on the PSBR could expose a future Chancellor to pressure from the markets to abolish the pound and take orders from the European Central Bank.

How has this arisen? The main problem has been that tax revenue has collapsed. The three biggest sources of tax — income tax, corporation tax and VAT — between them undershot forecasts by nearly £10 billion last year. Half of this shortfall came from VAT alone.

In March, the Treasury told the Select Committee that much of the drop in expected receipts from income and corporation tax could be laid at the door of lower economic growth and subdued inflation. But they could not explain the vanishing VAT, and feared that it might never reappear. If the Government wants to bring its deficit under control, it will have to cut public spending or raise taxes by a substantial amount. The last thing it should do is to cut taxes unless it can clearly identify — and achieve — equal or greater reductions in spending.

The danger for the country is that Kenneth Clarke will not be able to resist pressure from his own party to deliver the tax reductions that have become traditional at this stage of the political cycle. Doubtless he would accompany them with talk about "cuts" in spending in the November Budget. Just as likely, an incoming Government would find these cuts illusory. Whether Labour or Conservative, the administration would find itself in a position similar to that of 1993, when taxes had to be raised to pay for the overspending before the 1992 election.

More responsible right-wingers have heeded this message. John Redwood yesterday acknowledged that there was "very modest scope, if any, for tax reductions in the autumn". Others should follow his lead. Otherwise Mr Clarke will go down in history as the Chancellor who sacrificed fiscal rectitude for political advantage — and possibly even for no political advantage.

UNION JACQUES

The sad case of the European Union's second-hand standard

Today is, apparently, Europe Day. This event might have passed the great British public by, were it not for last week's little fuss when Michael Forsyth, supported by the Prime Minister, declared that in protest at the continued European Union ban on British beef, he would not permit the European Union flag of blue and gold to be flown from the Scottish Office today.

The impact of this announcement was somewhat diluted when it transpired that his department had never previously flown the EU colours on this occasion and had made no plans to do so anyway. But Mr Forsyth's quixotic gesture has drawn attention to a curious fact about the British. As a nation, we are relatively calm, even reticent, about displaying any flag, even our own.

The Union flag is flown on designated days but not with the gusto of the French, Italians, or Americans whose public buildings and ordinary homes are frequently festooned with them. In this bashfulness Britain is joined by the nations of the Benelux and Scandinavia. Although the cause here may be fear of flying the flag upside down, in general it appears that those nations which already possess one powerful national symbol — the monarchy — have less need of another. For republics, by contrast, the flag may often be the lone representation of constitutional continuity.

But what of the EU flag that Mr Forsyth has so publicly disowned? In truth it has a rather sad history. It was not even specially designed; it was "borrowed" from the Council of Europe. More imagination is called for, now that Europe Day has been brought to our attention. There should be a competition for a flag to suit the Europe of today. A tricolour of suitably straight sausage, cucumber, and banana? The mad cow rampant? Or, best of all, a Union Jacques to accompany the EuroDelors.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Heath rebuttal on MPs' earnings

From Sir Edward Heath, MP for Old Bexley and Sidcup (Conservative)

Sir, The headline to your main news story today, "Heath heads MPs defying earnings rule", is completely untrue and finds no justification even in your report which follows it. I have defied no earnings rule, nor have I "declined to conform" with it, as the report goes on to make perfectly clear.

In his letter to all Members of Parliament in February this year the Parliamentary Ombudsman, Sir Gordon Downey, wrote:

I would draw particular attention to the effect of the new Rules agreed to by the House on 6th November 1995. These require that any Member who has entered into an agreement with an outside body *involving the provision of services in his or her capacity as a Member of Parliament* should deposit with me a copy of that agreement, including the annual fees or benefits payable in bands . . . [my italics].

I have no agreements whatever, written or unwritten, involving the provision of services in my capacity as a Member of Parliament and no obligations of any kind to do so.

Sir Gordon goes on to quote from the report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life:

The new requirement for employment agreements to be put in writing will apply principally *to any arrangement whereby a Member may offer advice about parliamentary matters*. We think it right, however, that it should also include frequent, as opposed to merely occasional, commitments outside Parliament which arise directly from membership of the House. For example, a regular, paid newspaper column or television programme would have to be the subject of a written agreement, *but ad hoc current affairs or news interviews or intermittent panel appearances would not* [my italics].

I have no regular paid arrangements with the press, radio, television, sporting, musical, literary or any other such activities. I am not, therefore, required to offer advice about parliamentary matters.

You state that "many MPs consulted him [Sir Gordon] about what should go in the register". I was one of them.

Your correspondent also writes "Sir Edward, who declined to go along with earlier rules calling on MPs to give details of their Lloyd's membership", but you failed to complete the story. After a number of us in the House of Commons had requested a meeting with the House of Commons Select Committee on Members' Interests the committee changed its position on this point, and in the committee's second report, in session 1993-94, it abandoned its demand for MPs to declare publicly the syndicate to which they belonged and substituted for it:

(iii) In addition, Members who register an interest in Lloyd's . . . should also be required to disclose the categories of insurance business which they are underwriting. This disclosure should be by reference to the categories of business used by Lloyd's in its publication of syndicate performance.

The committee recognised that publishing an individual's syndicate number was not the proper way of dealing with Lloyd's matters. Instead they rightly provided for the publication of categories of insurance. This could have been settled from the beginning if there had been proper consultation between the committee and parliamentary members of Lloyd's.

Yours sincerely,
EDWARD HEATH,
House of Commons.
May 8.

All buttoned down

From Mr Michael Booth

Sir, Your Diarist's "Americanisation" of the button-down collar (May 4) aired a general misconception. The button-down shirt collar was not invented by the American firm with which it came to be so strongly identified — Brooks Brothers, of New York.

John Brooks saw the style on British polo players whilst he was holidaying in England in 1900 and rushed one back to New York for copying. The style was popular here in a number of sports in the 19th century, controlling as it did the distractions of flapping shirt-collar points when the wearer was in action.

Yours faithfully,
M. J. BOOTH (Chairman),
Hilditch & Key (shirtmakers),
88 Jermyn Street, SW1.
May 8.

Wind turbines: boon to farmers or blots on landscape?

From Mr A. G. M. Hunter

Sir, Simon Jenkins ("Old Macdonald has a windfarm", May 4) should not blame farmers for these new features of the landscape. In the UK, the wind electricity market, which has been stimulated because wind is a clean renewable energy resource, almost entirely excludes farmers. This contrasts with countries like Denmark, The Netherlands and Germany, where farm and community ownership of wind turbines is commonplace.

Our studies show that, although the opportunity is not well developed in the UK, farm ownership of a wind turbine with revenue from electricity sales would be a good business proposition at very many farm sites where wind speeds are high enough, even without the price support that Mr Jenkins so strongly opposes. A wind turbine need not be large, nor sited on the skyline, but its annual generated revenue could be a lifeline to farms that are struggling to survive in the hills and uplands.

It is well to remember that the very landscapes which we value so highly are also preserved and maintained for us by farming activity: a wind turbine could be just what a farmer needs to allow him to continue doing that job on our behalf.

Yours faithfully,
ALASTAIR HUNTER,
Scottish Agricultural College,
Resource Engineering Department,
Bush Estate, Penicuik, Midlothian.
May 6.

From Mr Bill Dawes

Sir, Far from desecrating the countryside, I find windmills a pleasure to the eye: majestic, awe-inspiring structures, powered by the natural elements, in harmony with nature rather than working against it. To call them "even more obtrusive" than pylons (which really are a desecration) is ludicrous.

A windmill is by no means permanent either — unlike power stations, particularly those of the nuclear variety. It can be taken down in a day, and leave barely a trace of its existence.

Yours,
BILL DAWES,
19 Greenbank, Falmouth, Cornwall.
May 6.

From Mr Jim Platts

Sir, In the teeth of a heavily subsidised power industry (nuclear), and with modest and reducing assistance, wind energy has steadily proved itself cost-effective, energy-effective and, where subject to a public discussion for planning approval, popular.

There is now a substantial industry across Europe, giving employment to 12,000 people, with thousands of wind turbines erected (over 1,750 Mw generating capacity) and a substantial export market. But most of that cost-effective electricity production isn't in the UK and most of those wind energy engineers aren't in the UK either.

Rather than being "fanatics", those involved in developing the small UK wind energy industry are a diverse group of deeply thoughtful people, trying hard to explore and put in place what might be an important option for our children.

They will need to understand where energy comes from and what the costs and consequences of different energy supply routes are, so that they can engage in informed public debate and come to informed decisions. This is not a privilege we have ever been allowed.

Yours faithfully,
JIM PLATTS (Lecturer),
University of Cambridge,
Department of Engineering,
Mill Lane, Cambridge.
May 6.

From Mr Robert Woodward

Sir, Bravo, Simon Jenkins. It was about time someone exposed the wind "farm" scam. Denmark has 3,800 wind turbines, built over the last 20 years, and there is virtually nowhere in the Danish countryside where you can neither see nor hear one. This army of vast, gesticulating towers produces 1.2 per cent of Denmark's total energy needs. Please God, let the United Kingdom not go the same way.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT WOODWARD
(Vice-Chairman),
Country Guardian,
Aubrey House, Riverside,
Twickenham, Middlesex.
May 4.

Coal's struggle to stay in power

From the Director General, Confederation of United Kingdom Coal Producers

Sir, Life in Britain's coal industry has never been easy and it certainly faces strong commercial pressures. However, it has always responded positively to the challenges identified in Christine Buckley's article, "Struggle hardens for coal to stay in the power game" (April 30) and it will continue to fight for its share of the market.

Contrary to the impression readers may have gained, the industry is not seeking "support mechanisms", only the opportunity to compete on a level playing field.

Coal continues to be the cheapest form of electricity generation in the UK; electricity generated from the new gas stations is up to 50 per cent more expensive than from the coal-fired stations they are replacing.

Substantial stockpiles of coal have been used to cover the shortfall in electricity supplies from gas stations. Stocks at the end of February 1996 were 7.4 million tonnes, compared with 34.3 million tonnes at the end of March 1993.

New gas stations have failed to deliver on time and there is a dawning realisation that contracts can be interrupted.

Britain needs an integrated energy policy within an environmental framework.

By the responsible use of our vast coal reserves and the more limited reserves of gas and oil we can maintain a diverse energy base and an independence which must augur well for the future of jobs and the competitiveness of businesses.

Yours faithfully,
GERALD A. MOUSLEY,
Director General,
The Confederation of United Kingdom Coal Producers,
Confederation House,
Thornes Office Park,
Denby Dale Road,
Wakefield, West Yorkshire.
May 2.

'Without Walls'

From Mr Dylan Evans

Sir, Your brief article on me, "So who is this man?" (Body and Mind, May 2), states that my qualifications "are not recognised by the analysts' official body". It implies, erroneously, that there is only one official body, the British Psycho-Analytical Society, which regulates the practice of psychoanalysis in this country. Over half the world's psychoanalysts are Lacanians, as I am, and are thus outside the BPAS's parent body, the International Psycho-Analytical Association.

Yours sincerely,
DYLAN EVANS,
Flat 1, 89 Seymour Road, N8.
May 5.

From Ms Penny Crick

Sir, We applaud Channel Four's decision to withdraw the *Without Walls* programme, *Psychoanalysing Diana* ("Why Diana does not deserve this", Body and Mind, May 2).

Self-styled "psychoanalyst" Dylan Evans brings the endeavour of psychoanalysis into gross disrepute by attempting a "simulation" of a process which could not be further from pretence and simulation in its real practice, as any real patient and any real psychoanalyst would be able to testify.

Lacan himself, with whom Evans claims affinity, defined psychoanalysis as this "truthful school of the passions of the city". It is not something that can be performed by proxy and in public.

Yours etc,
PENNY CRICK
(External Relations Officer),
British Confederation of Psychotherapists,
37a Mapesbury Road, NW2.
May 6.

Blight of devolution

From Sir Wyn Roberts, MP for Conwy (Conservative)

Sir, The answer to the headline question on Magnus Linklater's article "Devolution: is it dying of inertia?" (May 2) is surely "Yes" and not only in Scotland but in Wales.

The explanation is not only that the arguments for devolution fail to inspire, but that the prospect of yet another tier of government arouses a host of well grounded fears — that the financial costs falling on local people will heavily outweigh any possible benefits to them, that if Westminster MPs are inadequate in various ways, regional representatives will accentuate their worst features, and fear that, if the UK Government is weak in the European Union, regional governments will be absolutely powerless and at the mercy of the burgeoning superstate that appears to be threatening us.

Yours sincerely,
WYN ROBERTS
(Minister of State, Welsh Office 1987-94),
House of Commons.
May 3.

Care of Kenwood

From Ms Anne French

Sir, Mr Julius Bryant, Director of Collections at English Heritage (letter, April 22), defends the decision not to reinstate a permanent curator at Kenwood House on the grounds that "there has not been a curator devoted full-time to Kenwood for the past thirty years". I regard this argument as both disingenuous and unconvincing.

I also note that Sir Jocelyn Stevens, Chairman of English Heritage, has been reported as asserting that "it is an illusion that there was a permanent curator at Kenwood". Sir Jocelyn's memory, it seems to me, like Mr Bryant's, is strangely short.

For ten years, from 1979 to 1989, I worked for a very much present and distinguished curator, John Jacob, who held that appointment from 1967 to 1989. *Pace* Mr Bryant, Mr Jacob's team of three curators were all engaged full-time in managing Kenwood and its two smaller branch museums, Marble Hill House and Ranger's House.

Kenwood, as the major museum, occupied considerably more staff time than the other two. The request by the Friends of Kenwood that a single curator now be restored to the collection full-time is surely therefore not unreasonable.

The fact is that English Heritage chooses to regard Kenwood as an historic house — or "roofed site", as its Properties in Care Department memorably termed it at the time of Kenwood's transfer to English Heritage in 1986. Others, who recognise the outstanding importance of the Iveagh Bequest, housed at Kenwood, see that it is a museum set in an historic interior, comparable to the Wallace Collection or to Dulwich Picture Gallery.

Without professional staff on the premises, a museum quickly dies. Sadly, this is what those who care about Kenwood are now witnessing.

My former colleague, Mr Jacob Simon (letter, April 25), is right. In the impasse which now exists, the Department of National Heritage should act to fulfil the obligations to Kenwood which it inherited on the abolition of the Greater London Council.

The solution found for Dulwich Picture Gallery — namely independent status, with trustees and endowments — surely supplies the appropriate model.

Yours faithfully,
ANNE FRENCH
(Assistant Curator, Kenwood, 1979-86; Deputy Curator, 1986-89),
Greystead, Tarset,
Hexham, Northumberland.
May 4.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Business letters, page 29
Sports letters, page 43

'Salomé' fights back

From Mr Steven Berkoff

Sir, In one of the most antagonistic reviews it has been my misfortune to receive, Mark Steyn ("Pity the splenetic artiste", Books, May 2) mocks my production of *Salomé* as a kind of negative example for my autobiography, *Free Association*.

Misconceiving the production, the reviewer claims that the cast were "talking . . . very . . . slooooowly . . ." when in fact this is palpably untrue. They spoke normally if not more clearly than is usually heard in the theatre. They *moved* "slooooowly" and that is quite different. Movement, except to the visually or mentally challenged, can be an art form in itself I should hope, and it was the movement of the piece which earned it 99 per cent houses during its entire run.

Mr Steyn also claims, with that marvellous percipience some critics have, of hearing "the audience's collective penny drop" as they telepathically convey to his acute senses their obvious distress: "oh, God, they're going to do the whole thing in slow motion".

While possessing extra-sensory perception at the beginning of the play, he seemed to possess waxen ears by the end, when the audience cheered the production.

Salomé was one of the most successful productions at the National that year and went on to receive high acclaim in Australia, Japan, Madrid, Lisbon, Chicago and New York. So if *Salomé* is to be held up as a paradigm of *Free Association* I should be very pleased indeed, and count my book a great success.

Yours sincerely,
S. BERKOFF,
East Productions Ltd,
18 Narrow Street, E14.
May 3.

View from Waterloo

From Dr C. W. Coen

Sir, The panorama from London's Waterloo Bridge must be one of the most magnificent in the urban world. Your report, "Live-in bridge over Thames wins support" (May 7), indicates that the attractive proposal for a new pedestrian bridge sited between Waterloo and Blackfriars bridges may be superseded by plans for an inhabited structure "with four blocks of accommodation 20 metres high . . . allowing gaps to maintain views up the river".

The report states that the Secretary of State for the Environment is backing the plans for this commercial development. The ghastly prospect of an obstruction to such an exceptional view might inspire latter-day Wordsworths to voice protestations (not sonnets) up-river at Westminster.

As the poet might have said: "Dull would he be of soul who could pass" such plans.

Yours faithfully,
CLIVE COEN,
King's College London,
Biomedical Sciences Division,
Strand, WC2.
May 7.

Hard to swallow?

From Mr Guy Beddington

Sir, Your report (May 2) of the astonishing appetite and pleasingly lengthy digestive processes of the mud springs at Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire, suggests a unique and wondrously economical means to dispose of our bovine and other hazardous waste.

More cumbersome objects, such as rolling stock and oil rigs, if judiciously fed bit by bit, will, for several million years, effectively vanish.

Yours expectantly,
GUY BEDDINGTON,
55 Ladbroke Road, W11.
May 2.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
May 8: The Queen, as Sovereign of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, with The Duke of Edinburgh, Grand Master, drove to St Paul's Cathedral this morning to attend a Service of the Order of the British Empire.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness were received at the foot of the Cathedral Steps by the Rt Hon the Lord Mayor and at the West Door by the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's and the Lay Officers of the Order.

After the Service in the Cathedral, The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh attended a short Service in the Chapel of the Order to dedicate a new Screen and Chairs.

Her Majesty's Body Guard of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms and The Queen's Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guard were on duty.

The Duke of Edinburgh this morning presented the 1996 Templeton Prize at Buckingham Palace.

His Royal Highness, Freeman and Liveryman, this evening attended the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers' Court Ladies Dinner at Fishmongers' Hall, London Bridge, London EC4.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
May 8: The Prince Edward, Patron, Ocean Youth Club, this evening attended a private view of nautical pictures and memorabilia at Christie's South Kensington, London SW7, and later gave a Dinner at Buckingham Palace.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
May 8: The Princess Royal today visited Suffolk and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Suffolk (the Lord Belstead).

Her Royal Highness this morning opened the new Newmarket Hospital.

The Princess Royal, President, Animal Health Trust, afterwards visited Lanwades Hall, Kennett, Newmarket, and chaired The Princess Royal's Industry Committee Meeting, opened the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association Centre for Small Animal Studies and chaired the Annual General Meeting of the Council of Management.

Her Royal Highness, Patron, National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, this afternoon visited Bury St Edmunds' Citizens Advice Bureau at 6 St John's Street.

The Princess Royal, President, Animal Health Trust, this evening attended the Industry Committee Dinner at the Dorchester Hotel, London W1.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
May 8: The Prince of Wales today held a Seminar and gave a Luncheon for the Council for the Protection of Rural England.

His Royal Highness this evening gave a Reception for the Hungarian Architect, Imre Makovecz.

KENSINGTON PALACE
May 8: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President, the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, today visited the West Midlands and was received by Colonel P.J.C. Robinson (Deputy Lieutenant of the West Midlands).

Her Royal Highness this afternoon opened Boole House, the Society's Coventry Children's Centre in Whitefriars Street, Coventry.

The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President, The Birmingham Royal Ballet, was present this evening at a Gala Performance given in aid of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, at the Birmingham Hippodrome.

KENSINGTON PALACE
May 8: The Duchess of Gloucester today visited Cornwall and was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Cornwall (the Lady Mary Holborow).

In the morning Her Royal Highness opened the new surgical block at St Michaels Hospital, Trelissick Road, Hayle.

In the afternoon The Duchess of Gloucester opened the new extension at Duchy Hospital, Treliske, Truro. Afterwards Her Royal Highness, Patron, National Asthma Campaign visited the Asthma Information Centre, St Austell, and subsequently attended a presentation given by members of the Asthma Task Team in Cornwall at John Keay House, Tegonissey Road, St Austell.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
May 8: The Duke of Kent, Vice-Chairman, the British Overseas Trade Board, this morning opened the new manufacturing factory of Kitagawa Europe, Dolphin Road Industrial Estate, Southampton Road, Salisbury, and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Wiltshire (Field Marshal Sir Roland Gibbs).

His Royal Highness this afternoon visited Shelwork Industries Sheltered Workshop, Southampton Road, Salisbury, and the Wilton Carpet Factory, King Street, Wilton, Wiltshire.

The Duchess of Kent, Honorary Member, this evening presented the Royal Philharmonic Society Music Awards, at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, London W1.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
May 8: Princess Alexandra this afternoon visited Louth County Hospital, High Holme Road, Louth, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Lincolnshire (Mrs Bridget Cracroft-Eley).

Her Royal Highness subsequently opened the new offices of Lincolnshire Rural Housing Association Limited at Markime House, Poole's Lane, Spilsby.



Darwin's study at Down House, where he wrote his great work on *The Origin of Species*

Lottery cash helps to save Darwin's house

BY JOHN YOUNG

DOWN House, near Biggin Hill in Kent, where Charles Darwin lived for 40 years until his death in 1892, has been acquired for the nation.

The purchase was made possible by a unique joint effort involving government heritage bodies, a national museum, a professional institution and a private charitable trust.

In 1952 the house was acquired by the Royal College of Surgeons of England which has maintained it ever since. But three years ago the Natural History Museum took a lease on the house and has since raised £625,000 for its future preservation.

During its lease, which expired last year, the museum also secured a grant of £1.783 million from the Heritage Lottery fund, which will be given to English Heritage for the building's restoration.

In addition the Wellcome Trust has provided £230,000 for English Heritage to acquire the freehold of Down House, contents including a number of Darwin's papers, the five acre garden and 28 acres of parkland. It has also provided a further £475,000 to acquire the adjacent three acre Buckston Browne research farm. The arrangement is conditional on the Darwin Museum being maintained in perpetuity.

Sir Jocelyn Stevens, chairman of English Heritage, said yesterday that without the generosity of the Wellcome Trust and the efforts of the college in maintaining the property, the house and possessions of one of the most influential thinkers in world history would almost certainly have been lost and dispersed. Now it would be preserved as a museum and as an education and scholarly resource.

Sir Rodney Sweetnam, president of the Royal College of Surgeons, said that the maintenance of the house and museum had been a considerable expense for more than 40 years. "We are very grateful to the Wellcome Trust for making it possible for English Heritage to take over this responsibility and thereby allow the college to concentrate its resources on its surgical responsibilities."

Down House, which attracts some 5,000 visitors a year, is to be closed for restoration but numbers are expected to increase at least four-fold once it reopens. The Natural History Museum will also be closely involved in the future management of the house and garden.



Charles Darwin, the naturalist



Down House, near Biggin Hill, Kent, where Darwin lived and worked for 40 years

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R. Ace and Miss K. McEachran
The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of Mr and Mrs William Ace, of Morriston, Swansea, and Katrina, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Colin McEachran, of Edinburgh.

Mr J.D. Armstrong and Miss P.C.K. Anderson
The engagement is announced between Jason, elder son of Mr and Mrs Robert Armstrong, of Cayuga, Ontario, Canada, and Patricia, only daughter of Lieutenant Commander and Mrs Tom Anderson, of South Brent, Devon.

Mr C.K. Campbell and Miss A.J. Burley
The engagement is announced between Craig, son of Mr and Mrs Thomas Campbell, of Chatham, Ontario, Canada, and Amanda, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Burley, of West Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Mr P.J. Caton and Miss C.L. Dean
The engagement is announced between Philip, younger son of Mr and Mrs D. Caton, of Apsley Guise, Bedfordshire, and Caroline, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Gordon Dean, of Shalford, Guildford, Surrey.

Mr R.H.G. Gilbey and Miss E.F. Worsley
The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of the Hon Anthony and Mrs Gilbey, of Gatehouse of Fleet, Kirkcudbrightshire, and Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs M.R. Worsley, of Bolney, West Sussex.

Mr N.D. Herbert-Jones and Miss L. Parrish
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mr and Mrs Hugo Herbert-Jones, of Aldeburgh, Suffolk, and Louise, daughter of the late Mr James L. Parrish and of Mrs James Parrish, of Paris, Kentucky.

Mr S.L. Feast and Miss L.M.H. Salt
The engagement is announced between Stuart, younger son of Mr and Mrs Donald Feast, of Lower Skerrisdale, Kirk Michael, Isle of Man, and Lucinda, third daughter of the late Sir Anthony Salt, Bt, and of Prudence Lady Salt, of Ugley Green, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire.

Mr A. Grace and Miss C. O'Neill
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr Jeremy Grace, of Walton on Thames, Surrey, and the late Mrs Patricia Grace, and Catherine, youngest daughter of the late Mr John O'Neill and of Mrs Hilda O'Neill, of Bramhall, Cheshire.

Mr S.R. Mundy and Miss A.J. Finlay Browne
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs Nigel Mundy, of Northwood, Middlesex, and Alison, youngest daughter of Dr Peter Finlay Browne, of Didsbury, Manchester, and Mrs Muriel Browne, of Lyonshall, Herefordshire.

Sir Francis Ogilvy and Miss D.M. Stein
The engagement is announced between Francis, son of the late Sir David Ogilvy and of Lady Ogilvy, of Winton, East Lothian, and Dorothy, eldest daughter of the Rev Jock and the Rev Margaret Stein, of Carberry Tower, Midlothian.

Mr N.J.D. Parker and Miss S.K. Playfair
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, eldest son of Mr John Parker, of Little Kimble, Buckinghamshire, and Mrs Brian Ballantine, of The Lee, Buckinghamshire, and Susannah, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Roderick Playfair, of Pattiswick, Essex.

Today's birthdays

Mr Richard Adams, author, 76; Mr Alan Bennett, dramatist, 62; the Right Rev C.W.J. Bowles, former Bishop of Derby, 80; Miss Nina Campbell, interior designer, 51; Dr John Cook, Principal, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Foundation of St Catharine's at Cumberland Lodge in Windsor Great Park, 56; Lord Cooke of Thorndon, 70; Mr Terry Downes, boxer, 60; Mr Albert Finney, actor, 60; Mr Carlo Maria Giulini, conductor, 82; Dr Douglas Guest, organist emeritus, Westminster Abbey, 80; Vice-Admiral Sir John Hayes, former Lord Lieutenant of Ross and Cromarty, Skye and Lochalsh, 83; Sir Geoffrey Holland, Vice-Chancellor, Exeter University, 58; Mr Richard Houghton, racehorse trainer, 56; Miss Glenda Jackson, MP, and actress, 60; Mr Billy Joel, singer, 47; Sir Francis Kennedy, Chancellor, University of Central Lancashire, 70; Sir Peter Leng, 71; Lord Lloyd of Berwick, 67; Mr Gavin Lyall, author, 64; Lord Justice MacDermott, 69; Miss Geraldine McEwan, actress, 64; Professor Alistair MacFarlane, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Heriot-Watt University, 65; Mr Brian McMaster, director, Edinburgh Festival, 53; Sir Philip Mansfield, former diplomat, 70; Mr Bill Olner, MP, 54; Sir David Plastow, former chairman, Inchcape, 64; Dr Bernard Rose, organist, 80; Mr Patrick Ryecart, actor, 44; Mr V.L. Sankey, chief executive, Reckitt and Colman, 47; Admiral Sir Victor Smith, 83.

Sheriff's Breakfast

High Sheriff of Greater London
The Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London, Field Marshal Lord Bramall, KG, and Lady Bramall, the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor of Gosforth, and the Deputy Lord Mayor of Westminster attended the Sheriff's Breakfast given by Sir Cyril Taylor, High Sheriff of Greater London, at the Savoy Hotel yesterday. Among those present were:
Baroness Blatch, Lord Justice Auld, Lord Justice Kennedy, Lord Justice Hirst, Mr Kenneth Baker, PC, MP, Lord Irvine of Laing, QC, Lord Quirk, Mr Justice Waterhouse, the Hon Mrs Henry Keswick, Sir Godfrey Taylor, Sir Ronald Halstead, Sir James Swaffield, Master Robert Turner, Master Michael Dyson, Master Michael Mackenzie, QC, Judge Fabyan Evans, Judge Jonathan van der Werff, Judge Gerald Butler, QC, Judge Andrew Brooks, Judge Leo Charles, Judge Frank White, Councillor Paul Warrick, the High Sheriff of Surrey, Mr Maurice Stonefrost, Mr David Penry-Davey, QC, Mr Michael Huebner, Mr Michael Saunders, Mr Graham Hearne, Mr Nigel Nicholls, Mr Richard Grobler, Mr Richard Tilt, Mr Peter Harris, Mr Martin Coffey, Ms Helen Chalmers, Mr James Perriss, Mr Graham Clarke, Mr Joseph Mullens, Mr John Harding, Mr William Harrison, Group Captain John Constable, Mr George Gordon-Smith, Mr Graham Addicott, Mr John Wilkinson, MP, and Mrs Wilkinson, Dr Richard Resch, Ms Alba Ambert, Mr and Mrs Michael Ashcroft, Mr Robert Atkinson, Mr and Mrs James Lemkin, Mr and Mrs Richard Brew, Mr John Deacon, Miss Mary Eaton, Ms Susan Fey, Mr Robert Findlay, Mr and Mrs Jeffrey Gunnell-Kemp, Mr John Hedger, Mr Malcolm Holloway, Mr Clifford Joseph, Mr Oliver Knox, Mr Walter McCann, Mr James McNicholas, Mr Chad Murrin, Mr John Nelson-Jones, Mr Richard Painter, Mr and Mrs Ross Russell, Mr Bruno Schroder, Mr Mark Simpson, Mr Colin Speakman, Mrs Cynthia Sturgis, Miss Sylvia Taylor, Mr Anthony Taylor, Mr Neil Williamson, Mr and Mrs Windsor, the Deputy Under Sheriff and the Under Sheriff and Mrs John Hargrove.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Sir James Barrie, dramatist and novelist, Kirriemuir, 1860; Lilian Baylis, founder of the Old Vic and Sadler's Wells, London, 1874; Howard Carter, archaeologist, discoverer of the tomb of Tutankhamun, 1922, Swaffham, Norfolk, 1874; Barbara Woodhouse, animal trainer, Dublin, 1910.

DEATHS: William Bradford, Pilgrim Father, Plymouth, Massachusetts, 1657; Johann Christoph Friedrich von Schiller, dramatist and poet, Weimar, Germany, 1805; Aldo Moro, five times Prime Minister of Italy, assassinated, Rome, 1978; Tenzing Norgay, Himalayan climber, Darjeeling, 1986.

Irish adventurer, Colonel Thomas Blood, attempted to steal the Crown Jewels, 1671.

Ethiopia was annexed by Italy, 1936.

The Channel Islands were liberated from German occupation, 1945.

Today's royal engagements

Prince Edward, as Trustee of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, will attend an award dinner given by the International Petroleum Exchange at Marlborough House at 7.15.

The Princess Royal, as President of the British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, will visit Poppy, 44 High Street, Yarm, Cleveland, at 10.20; as Patron of the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, will visit Stockton and District Advice and Information Service, Bath Lane, Stockton-on-Tees, at 11.05; as President of The Missions to Seamen, will open a new Flying Angel Centre on the Tees, Tees Storage Company, Seal Sands Road, Stockton-on-Tees, at 12.05; as President of The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, will visit North Tyneside Carers Centre, Neptune Road, Wallsend, Tyne and Wear, at 1.30; and will attend a reception at the Vermont Hotel, Castle Garth, at 3.30. Later, as President of the British Olympic Association, will attend *Blood Brothers* at the Theatre Royal, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, at 7.20.

The Duke of Kent, as Patron of the Ski Club of Great Britain, will present the Pery Medal at Eaton Square at 11.30.

The Duchess of Kent, as Colonel-in-Chief, will visit the 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire, Dale Barracks, Liverpool Street, Chester, at 11.00.

Lord Colyton

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life and work of Lord Colyton will take place in the Chapel of St Mary Undercroft at noon on Tuesday, June 4. Those wishing to attend are requested to apply for tickets to: The Rector's Secretary, Room 4, 1 Little Cloister, Westminster Abbey, SW1P 3PL, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope. Tickets will be posted from May 22.

Lieutenant-Commander Jeffrey Quill

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Lieutenant-Commander Jeffrey Quill, OBE, AFC, will be held on Friday, May 17, 1996, at noon at St Clement Danes, Strand WC2.

Receptions

Prime Minister
The Prime Minister and Mrs Major were the hosts at a reception held yesterday evening at 10 Downing Street in honour of the NSPCC.

HM Government
Mr Jeremy Hanley, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was the host yesterday at a reception given by Her Majesty's Government at Lancaster House for the Royal United Services Institute as part of the RUSI Seminar: Co-operation and Partnership for Peace: a contribution to Euro-Atlantic Security into the 21st century.

The Pilgrims
The Pilgrims spring reception, which included a guided tour of the gardens and the Dr Shirley Sherwood collection of contemporary botanical artists, was held yesterday at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

Professor Sir Ghillean Prance, FRS, Director of Kew, welcomed the members and guests. Mr Robert Worcester, Chairman of the Pilgrims, also spoke.

Dinners

Air Force Board
Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon, Chief of the Air Staff, presided at a dinner given by the Air Force Board Standing Committee and their ladies last night at RAF Bentley Priory to mark the retirement of Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Stear, Deputy Commander-in-Chief, HQ Allied Forces, Central Europe.

Chatham Dining Club
Sir Robin Butler was the principal guest at a dinner of the Chatham Dining Club held last night at the St Ermin's Hotel. Mr Tristram Rickens was in the chair.

Institute of Materials
Sir Ronald Mason, President of the Institute of Materials, presided at the annual dinner held last night at Grosvenor House. Mr Brian Moffat and Professor Brian Fender also spoke. During dinner Sir Ronald presented Mr Moffat with the Institute's Bessemer Gold Medal, Professor D. West with the Platinum Medal and Professor A.J. Kinloch with the Griffith Medal. Dr D. McLean was presented with a Certificate of Honorary Fellowship.

Foundation for Science and Technology
Lord Butterworth, Chairman of the Council of the Foundation for Science and Technology, presided at a lecture and dinner discussion held last night at the Royal Society. Mr Kenneth Bagnall, QC, Major-General Edmund Burton, and Professor Ray Harris were the speakers.

Bankers' Taxation Circle
Dr Onno Ruding was the guest speaker at a dinner of the Bankers' Taxation Circle held last night at the Cottons Centre, London Bridge. Ms Charlotte Morgan, president, was in the chair.

Lecture

Coningsby Club
Mr Michael Heseltine, Deputy Prime Minister and First Secretary of State, yesterday at the Carlton Club delivered the Butler Lecture to the Chairman, Officers and Committee of the Coningsby Club. The Hon Peter Brooke, CH, MP, president, was in the chair.

Memorial service

Brigadier Peter Tower
A memorial service for Brigadier Peter G.S. Tower was held yesterday in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks. The Rev Jonathan Gough officiated.

Major Alastair Tower, brother, read the lesson and Major William Tower, son, gave a reading. Brigadier Richard Heywood, also representing the Coldstream Guards, gave an address.

Appointment

Mr Robert Dewar to be ambassador (non-resident) to the Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros is succession to Mr Peter Smith, who has transferred to a new Diplomatic Service appointment. Mr Dewar is also accredited to the Republic of Madagascar, where he is resident.

Royal Navy

Rear-Admiral F.P. Scourse to be Acting Controller of the Navy from May 1 in succession to Vice-Admiral Sir Robert Walmsley.

PERSONAL COLUMN

BMD'S: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

We brought nothing into this world and we can take nothing out: if we have food and clothing let us rest content. 1 Timothy 6 : 7.8 (REB)

BIRTHS

ARCHAIMBAULT – To Isabelle (née Laboubé) and Christophe Archambault, a daughter, Alice, Friday 3rd May 1996 at The Portland Hospital.

COTRAN – On April 24th, to Penny (née Lewis) and Patrick, a son, Oscar Eugene Roland, a brother for Polly.

CRAWFORD CLARKE – On 3rd May 1996 at home in Stamford, to Judith and Charles, a son, Arthur Frederick, a brother for Ophelia.

FROST – On May 7th, to Michelle (née Fearnehough) and Jerry, a son, Benjamin Robert.

HART – On 4th May, to David Hart and Kate Agnarian, a daughter Annabyah Clare.

HEAD – On April 15th 1996 at the Wellesley Hospital, Toronto, Canada, to Sarah (née King) and Martin, a beautiful boy, James Michael Nicholas. Proud first-time grandparents are Dr. Margot King of Toronto, Prof. Micheal King of Heilidon Northamptonshire and Mrs. Marjorie Head of Romford, Essex.

KALLIS – Giorgio on April 28th at The Portland Hospital, the first child to Sophia and Fanny Kallis.

LLOYD – On May 3rd, to Barbara (née Atkinson) and Patrick, a daughter, Olivia Catherine, a sister for Susannah.

LYONS – On 30th April, to Sophie (née Pilcher) and Seamus, a son, Milo Jack Percy, a brother for Otto.

MAXWELL – On May 4th at Queen Charlotte's, to Cheryl (née Ellis) and Darryl, a beautiful daughter, Sophie Anne, a sister for Charlotte.

BIRTHS

OSHLACK – On April 13th at The Portland Hospital, to Emma (née Schneider) and Alan, a beautiful daughter, Eve Taylor.

PARRY – On April 29th, a son Lewis Duncan McDonald, to James and Fiona, a brother for Jessica and India.

RICHARDS – Elizabeth Marie on May 9th 1995, at The Portland Hospital, a truly adorable daughter to Jeanette and Paul Richards, and a sister to Natalie and Thomas.

ROBINSON – On 6th May, to Sally (née Blacker Morgan) and Anthony, the wonderful gift of a daughter, Jessica Frances, a little sister for James, Sophie and Benjamin.

TOLLAH – On May 7th in Cheltenham, to Indrani (née Ghosh) and Richard, a son, Matthew John.

TUFNELL – On May 6th at Queen Charlotte's to Ruth (née Birkett) and Richard, a son, William Edward Carleton, a brother for James.

WINTHER – On April 29th, to Emma (née Gillingham) and Angus, a son, Harry John Hardy, a brother for Serena.

DEATHS

ABDERHALDEN – Hilde, in her 97th year, died 14th April 1996 in Cape Town, South Africa. Much loved wife of the late Cecil F. Abderhalden, formerly of Orchard Court, Portman Square, London, and latterly of Cape Town, where the funeral took place.

DEATHS

AKED – Cynthia Gertrude, aged 94, peacefully after a short illness on May 7th at Sutton Manor Nursing Home. Beloved wife of the late Leslie, mother of Roger, Antonia and the late Sian, grandmother of Francesca, Belinda, Hugo, Adam and Rory and great-grandmother of Carly, Jody, Ophelia and Eloise. Funeral at 12.30 pm at St Mary Abbott's Church, Kensington on Tuesday 14th May. Flowers to J.H. Kenyon, 49 Marloes Road, London W8.

BARCLAY – Annie Catherine suddenly at home on 4th May 1996. Much loved wife of Terry McGurk, she also leaves behind her father, three brothers and three sisters. She will be greatly missed by family, friends and colleagues. The burial will take place at The Church of Our Lady of The Assumption, Tile Lane, Coventry on Friday 10th May 1996 at 9 am. All enquiries c/o Pargetters, Funeral Directors, City Mews, Lamb Street, Coventry. Tel: 0120 3223343.

BOWEN – Alun Wynne Lloyd, peacefully on May 7th 1996 aged 53 after a long brave fight against cancer. Beloved husband of Chris, devoted father of Clare and the late Sian and brother of Hywel. Funeral Service at Easthampstead Park Crematorium, Wokingham, at 12 noon on Wednesday 15th May. Family flowers only, but donations if desired to The Royal Marsden Hospital, Sutton, Surrey.

DEATHS

BOWER – Dorothy on Monday May 6th suddenly but peacefully in her 91st year. Dearly loved wife of James (deceased), mother of Peter (deceased) and David, mother-in-law of Robin and Rosalind and grandmother of Michael and Lucy, Caroline and Leonora. Flowers and all enquiries to F.A. Holland & Son, 16 Ash Lane, Rustington, tel: (01903) 771010.

BULGER – His Honour Anthony Clare on 5th May peacefully at home. Funeral Service at Forthampton Church at 2.30 pm on Wednesday 15th May. Family flowers only.

CAPSTICK-DALE – Ernest John (Jack) on May 7th 1996 aged 89, beloved father of Rodney and grandfather of Simon, Nicholas, Marcus and Daniel. A Requiem Mass at Clifton Cathedral, Bristol, on Friday May 10th at 12 noon.

CLEVERLEY-FORD – Died on 4th May 1996 Canon Douglas William Cleverley-Ford. Dearly loved husband of the late Olga Mary. Funeral Monday May 13th at 2.15 pm St Peter's Church, Tandridge. No flowers please. Memorial Service details to be announced.

COLESBY – John, formerly Flt. Lt., 3rd May 1996 peacefully at home. Dear husband of Anne and loving father of John, Mary and Paul. Funeral Service at St Anne's R.C. Church, Radcliffe-on-Trent, Monday 13th May at 12.30 pm. Donations in lieu of flowers if desired to Marie Curie Fund c/o Radcliffe & District Funeral Service. (0115) 9332257.

DEATHS

DOLLEG – On May 5th after a short illness Diana Dolleg (née Harvey) died peacefully in Charing Cross Hospital. Much loved and missed by Deborah, Neil and Derek. Funeral at Breakspear Crematorium on 15th May at 1.30 pm. Family flowers only. All donations to Cancer Research. Enquiries to: (0181) 998-2934.

DOUGLAS – In New Zealand on May 5th Ronald George Sholto, younger son of the late the Hon. William and the late the Hon. Georgiana Douglas. Much loved husband of Heather and father of Roderick, Malcolm, Fiona, Shona and Alistair and a beloved grandfather. Enquiries to Shona Johnstone c/o (01223) 357510 (daytime).

ELMES – Tom F.L., died peacefully at his home on May 6th 1996. Will be sadly missed by family and friends. Funeral Service at St Mary's Church, Congerstone, Warks. on Tuesday May 14th at 12 noon followed by private cremation. Family flowers only please, donations if desired may be sent for the Institute for the Deaf (Cheques made payable to the Institute for the Deaf) c/o Ginns & Gutteridge, Funeral Directors, of Leicester, tel: 0116 2816117.

GEORGIADIS – Helle E. (Ellie), PhD., U.C. London, daughter of the late Hypatia Cardia, peacefully on 4th May after a short illness. Enquiries regarding funeral arrangements to Messrs J.A. Clark & Sons (0181-449 3578).

DEATHS

GILMORE – Elizabeth Ann, on 6th May in Burford after a courageous struggle borne with dignity. An adored and much loved mother to William and Stella and a devoted grandmother to Megan. Flowers, donations and funeral arrangements through Fisher Townsend (Witney). 01993 702675.

HALES – (Née Pearson) suddenly on May 4th 1996, Isabella Auld aged 68. Beloved wife of Mike, mother of Kay, Mike and Trish, grandmother of Lauren, Georgia, Oliver and Rosie. Funeral enquiries and donations to Save the Children Fund c/o Nicholas O'Hara Funeral Directors tel: (01202) 882134.

HODSON – On May 6th, peacefully, Marguerite Edmée (Madge), aged 98. Widow of the Reverend Harold Hodson, MC, and much loved mother of Alan, Denys, Celia and Tom. Cremation private. Service of Thanksgiving at 3 pm on May 23rd at St Mary's, Fairford, Gloucestershire. No flowers, please, but donations if desired to the Friends of Fairford Church.

JACOT DE BOINOD – On May 4th 1996 at The Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading, William, aged 66, died peacefully with his family around him after a brave and dignified fight against cancer. Dearly loved husband of Annette, father of Simon and Adam, father-in-law of Elizabeth and grandfather of Beatrix. Funeral private. Service of Thanksgiving for William's life will be held at 3pm on Thursday, 16th May at St Mary's Church, Eversley, Hampshire to which all family and friends are most welcome.

DEATHS

JANIK – On 5th May 1996 peacefully in St Raphael's Hospice, Cheam, after a long illness bravely borne, Zbigniew Janik, very beloved husband for 56 years of Lydia. Funeral at 11.30 am on Monday 13th May 1996 at St John's Polish Church, St John's Avenue, Putney, followed by cremation at Putney Vale Crematorium. No flowers but donations if wished to St Raphael's Hospice, Cheam.

LOTT – On 6th May 1996 unexpectedly following an operation, Geoffrey D.H., loved husband of Judith, dear father of Susanna, Richard and Vanessa and brother of Yvonne. Enquiries to Tupper Funeral Service, tel: Poole (01202) 673164.

Mac ARTHUR – On May 8th, peacefully at home in Richmond, Thérèse (née Aubéline), widow of Lt.-Gen. Sir William Mac Arthur, in her 102nd year.

McALPINE – Dr. John Colin suddenly but peacefully at home on May 6th. Devoted husband to Florina, wonderful father to Nicholas and Anna and fond father-in-law to Helen. All enquiries to James Peddle Ltd., 65 High Street, Rickmansworth. Tel (01923) 772013.

MILLICHAP – Donald on Saturday 4th May 1996. Funeral at 3.15 pm on Tuesday 14th May 1996 at West London Crematorium at Kensal Green London W10. Flowers or donations - Enquiries to John Noden, 181 Ladbroke Grove, London W10 6HH. Tel: 0181 969 1819.

DEATHS

MURRAY-WELLS – On 7th May peacefully at Nene Hall, Nunnington, Hugh aged 75 years. Beloved husband of the late Cynthia and dear father and grandfather. Cremation (private) Friday 10th May. Service of Thanksgiving will be held at 2 pm Monday 20th May at Nunnington Church. Flowers or donations to Nunnington Church. Enquiries to Dodsworth Funeral Service, Malton. (01653) 600178.

ORR – James Stanley LDS; QUB. Peacefully on 4th May at his daughter and son-in-law's home after a long illness borne with his usual great dignity and humour, James Stanley. Beloved husband of the late Sylvia. Dearly loved father of Daphne, John and Michael, father-in-law to David (Dewi), Margaret and Barbara. Adored Bampi and Grampa to Paul, Christopher, Sian and Andrew, Mark, Stuart, Richard and Julia. Precious Great-Bampi to Bethan and David. Uncle to Roger and the late Michael. Dr. Orr was a Dental Surgeon in Neath for many years. He will be deeply missed by his family and the friends and neighbours whose kindness and caring meant so much to him. Resting at W.A. Brown & Sons Funeral Directors, Pembroke House, College Street, Llanelli. Make until the service at Margam Crematorium on Monday 13th May at 12 noon. Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home. R.I.P.

DEATHS

PAGE – Emily F.M. on May 6th peacefully, aged 96 years. Much loved mother of Vivian and Ian and mother-in-law of Gladys and Tony. Funeral Service at St. Peter's Church, Bexhill on Thursday May 16th at 2.45pm. No flowers, donations if desired for N.A.B.S. c/o Mummery F/D's, 31 Devonshire Road, Bexhill-on-Sea.

SCOTT – Ken, father of Michael, Paddy and Bridget, peacefully on Tuesday 7th May in hospital. Funeral Service at 11 am on Friday 10th May at Crichton Church, near Pathhead, followed by private family burial.

SHARRATT – Robert Keith peacefully at home on May 5th 1996. Cremation at The Chilterns Crematorium, Amersham, at 10 am Monday May 13th, followed by Thanksgiving Service at 12.30 pm at St Mary's Parish Church, Princes Risborough. No flowers. Donations if desired to R.N.L.I. c/o Surman & Horwood Funeral Service, 25 High Street, Princes Risborough, HP27 0AE.

SHILLINGFORD – Amy Edith on 6th May peacefully at Court House, Cheddar, in her 99th year. Beloved wife of the late Dick, mother of Bob, Barbara and John, much loved grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral Service at St Andrew's Cheddar on Monday May 13th at 11 am. Committal of ashes and service of thanksgiving at Cheriton, Hinds at a later date. Family flowers only, donations to R.N.I.B. c/o G. Holland & Son, 62 Vestry Road, Street, Somerset.

DEATHS

SMITH – On 7th May 1996, peacefully, Sir Howard Smith. Service to take place at the Kent and Sussex Crematorium, Tunbridge Wells on Thursday 16th May at 12 noon. Family flowers only, donations if wished to the R.N.I.B. or M.I.N.D. c/o C. Waterhouse & Sons, High Street, Burwash, E. Sx. Tel: (01435) 882219.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

LOWELL – Lady Caroline. An Appreciation will be held sometime in the Autumn.

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OBITUARIES

SIR HOWARD SMITH

Sir Howard Smith, GCMG, British Ambassador in Moscow, 1976-78, and Director-General of the Security Service (MI5), 1978-81, died on May 7 aged 86. He was born on October 15, 1919.



WHEN he was personally asked by the Prime Minister James Callaghan to take over as head of MI5 in 1978, Howard Smith wanted to take the post only on the basis that his appointment would be publicised. The Prime Minister had asked him to leave the Moscow Embassy early in order to go to MI5 because of Labour suspicion of the extreme secretiveness of the Security Service. There was a strong feeling in government circles that the Security Service had become too secret by half, that greater openness about MI5 would demystify the organisation and increase public confidence and the confidence of other Whitehall departments in the service.

Smith's desire to carry these laudable aims a step further and be publicly named was not, in fact, to be granted. He was ordered to remain anonymous, and it was not until Stella Rimington was named Director-General of the Security Service in a blaze of publicity in 1992 that the general public was at last allowed to know who actually ran MI5. Nevertheless the appointment of Smith in 1978 was a first small step on the way towards what eventually became greater openness. It was also the first time that a career diplomat — rather than a policeman or longtime intelligence officer — had become head of MI5.

Howard Frank Trayton Smith's career was a remarkable one. He did not come from a diplomatic background. His father was a hard-pressed and impecunious schoolmaster, struggling to bring up a large family in the 1930s. Smith senior was forced to supplement his income by playing in a local band to try to make ends meet.

In these unpromising circumstances, Howard Smith owed his remarkable opportunities to the Second World War. Whatever else its undoubted and manifold drawbacks, this global upheaval, with its sudden call on a wide range of talents of all sorts, had an egalitarian tendency which was beneficial to many men and women — especially those nurtured in technical fields.

Smith's particular bent was for mathematics. Born in Brighton and subsequently raised in Wembley he won a scholarship to the old Regent Street Polytechnic (now part of the University of Westminster) and, after doing well there, another to Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge. But he never got the chance to take his degree. When war broke out British Intelligence scoured the universities for brilliant mathematicians who would be required in substantial numbers to break the Enigma ciphers, which were being used by the German armed forces and the Abwehr.

Swept up into the net, Smith was sent to the decrypting centre at Bletchley Park. There for the next five-and-a-half years he was involved in deciphering the Enigma keys and thus helping to turn them into the Ultra intelligence which enabled the Allies to gain their profound insight into German military intentions.

After the war he joined the Foreign Service and served in a number of non-specialist posts: in Oslo; in Washington, where he was 2nd Secretary (Information); and as Consul at Caracas. In 1956 he came back to the Foreign Office in London and he there began his long association with Soviet and East European Affairs. He had earlier met the Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko and, although his specialisation in Soviet affairs had begun too late in his life, perhaps, for him to acquire Russian, he developed an insight into the Soviet way of "doing business" that stood him in good stead in his later posts. Soviet officialdom at least appreciated that he was not instinctively anti-Soviet, indeed that he liked many Russians as individuals. But the Russians were aware, too, that he was a tough and sceptical negotiator.

Smith was Counsellor in Moscow, 1961-63, a particularly trying period of the Cold War which gave him plenty of experience of, and insight into, the psychology of Anglo-Soviet diplomacy. He was back at the Foreign Office, 1964-68, before in November 1968 being handed one of his least tractable assignments, the ambassadorship in Prague. It was a difficult time. The reformist government of Dubcek had been brutally suppressed by Soviet tanks and was shortly to be replaced by a servile regime. It was largely a period of marking time for Western diplomats in Prague, though Smith did what little could be done to encourage faint flickerings of an independent attitude in some quarters.

He returned to the United Kingdom in 1971 to take up the post of UK Representative in Northern Ireland which he held until 1972, when he became a Deputy Secretary to the Cabinet Office. In 1976 he crowned his long run of Soviet-related appointments when he was sent to be Ambassador in Moscow. With relations between London and Washington and the Kremlin at best wary, in spite of the superficial appearance of détente, it was again a somewhat sterile period for diplomacy.

Yet Smith's personal standing was always one of respect from the host country and its officialdom. There was at least enough understanding between him and Gromyko for him to want to tell the latter, when he was summoned back to London in 1978 before the end of his term, that his departure had nothing to do with British foreign policy, so that the wrong (and perhaps damaging) construction should not be placed on it in the Kremlin.

Smith retired from the Security Service in 1981 with the reputation of a good organiser, who was not overbearing to subordinates nor over-deferential to Ministers. He was appointed CMG in 1966, KCMG in 1976 and advanced to GCMG in 1981.

Howard Smith was married first, in 1943, to Winifred Mary Cropper who died in 1982, and second to Mary Penney who died earlier this year. Both his wives had been colleagues from his days at Bletchley. He is survived by the daughter of his first marriage.

PREBENDARY DOUGLAS CLEVERLEY FORD

Prebendary Douglas Cleverley Ford, founding director of the College of Preachers and Chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury, 1975-80, died on May 4 aged 82. He was born on March 4, 1914.



A CLERGYMAN of the old school, Douglas Cleverley Ford spent almost his entire ministry in London. By former listeners to the BBC's Light Programme he will probably best be remembered for his period as vicar of Holy Trinity, Prince Consort Road, where his Sunday morning services were in the 1950s and 1960s a regular part of the religious output.

He was a fine preacher in the classic Evangelical tradition and for 13 years he combined holding his living in Kensington Gore (just behind the Albert Hall) with the honorary directorship of the newly-founded College of Preachers. This represented an effort — largely Evangelical-inspired — to improve the standard of sermons within the Church of England and, although the college was later to have its ups-and-downs, under Cleverley Ford's leadership it enjoyed considerable success.

Very much a protégé of Donald Coggan, the Archbishop of Canterbury whom he served as senior chaplain at Lambeth, Douglas William Cleverley Ford was educated at Great Yarmouth School and at the University of London. In 1936 he graduated from the London College of Divinity. He returned there to teach the following year, remaining a college tutor for two years — during which time he was ordained. He served his title at Bridlington, spending the first three years of his ministry in that Yorkshire seaside resort.

In 1942 he returned to London to become vicar of Holy Trinity, Hampstead, combining his wartime parish work there with lecturing at the London College of Divinity, where from 1944 onwards Donald Coggan was Principal. Cleverley Ford's own lectures were always well prepared and easy to listen to — his speciality being biblical exposition showing the relevance of scripture to contemporary life.

In 1955 the Dean and Chapter of Westminster Abbey presented him to the living of Holy Trinity, Prince Consort Road, which had been combined with Dean Inge's old parish of All Saints, Ennismore Gardens. There Cleverley Ford found only a very small congregation — his predecessor-bar-one, Canon J. O. Hannay (the Irish thriller-writer George A. Birmingham), having after 16 years just died in harness at the age of 84. Nevertheless, largely through his preaching, he gradually built up an effective ministry in George Bodley's remarkably handsome and spacious church.

His achievements were reflected in his appointment to be rural dean of Westminster in 1965, his preferment as a prebendary of St Paul's in 1967, his choice to be a chaplain to the Queen in 1973 and in his unusual selection, for a London clergyman, to serve as a provincial canon of York in 1969.

This last, though, was probably best seen as a tribute to his work as the first director of the College of Preachers — a body that the then Archbishop of York, Dr Donald Coggan, had taken the lead in founding in 1960. In this role Cleverley Ford was a great success — much enjoying the residential courses that were occasionally run and generally inspiring hundreds of clergy over the years in their weekly task of sermon preparation.

Harold Wilson's decision, however, in 1974 to offer the archbishopric of Canterbury to Donald Coggan brought all this work to an end. It was natural that the new 64-year-old Primate of All England would want his old friends around him — and equally predictable that one of his choices would fall on his former colleague, with whom he shared so many interests, from the London College of Divinity. Serving at Lambeth from 1975 to 1980 — he retired along with the Archbishop that year — Cleverley Ford inevitably took a back seat, working on things like clergy discipline, Coggan's speeches and the preparation of material for bishops' meetings; but it was some indication of the highly responsible duties he performed that they should, after his own time, generally have been put in the hands of a retired diocesan bishop.

A shy and diffident man, Cleverley Ford himself would probably never have felt at home on the episcopal bench — though there was a time in his career when he could well have reached it. He retired to Lingfield in Surrey on leaving Lambeth at the age of 65 and continued to write throughout his retirement, being the author in all of some fifty books and pamphlets mainly on the theme of preaching.

He married in 1939 Olga Mary Bewley, who died in 1993. They had no children.

MARJORIE LEE

Marjorie Lee, former public relations officer of the Dorchester Hotel, died on April 20 aged 81. She was born on October 23, 1914.



PUBLIC RELATIONS is a job at which women have traditionally excelled, but in the specialist arena of hotel work Marjorie Lee had a particularly illustrious career. She was head of public relations at the Dorchester Hotel on Park Lane for more than forty years. The hotel had opened in 1931, and Marjorie joined it seven years later.

Marjorie Geraldine Vaughan Lee was born in Norfolk, but brought up in West Chiltington in West Sussex by her grandmother and educated locally. As a young woman with no private means she was obliged to earn her own living.

She began her career working as secretary to Richmond Temple who was then the PR consultant and a director of the Savoy Hotel. Temple had brought back some revolutionary ideas from America on the role of the press officer, and claimed to have invented the idea of public relations in British hotels.

After an argument with Sir George Reeves-Smith, the Savoy's managing director, Temple left the Savoy taking his staff of three, including Marjorie Lee, with him. Gordon Hotels, the chain which then owned the Dorchester, invited Temple to join their board of directors in order to set up the press office at the Dorchester.

Temple launched the office at the Dorchester in 1938, and Marjorie joined him as the hands-on chief of the press office. The hotel had then one of the most stunning art deco interiors in London. Marjorie Lee took over an office on its mezzanine floor, originally with a staff of three though this later contracted to one faithful assistant, Daphne Petrie, who remained with her for 25 years. Women in PR were then very much a novelty, but the two made a formidable team and built up good working relationships with Fleet Street journalists.

During the Second World War Marjorie Lee spent her evenings as a firewatcher on the roof of the hotel. The building was made of reinforced concrete and was claimed to be fire-proof, earthquake-proof and bomb-proof, though this last boast was never put to the test as it was never directly hit.

As a result, its rooms were occupied by such men as Sir Anthony Eden, and Lord Portal, Chief of the Air Staff. General Eisenhower made his headquarters in one of the suites and in the period before D-Day entertained Winston Churchill there once a week.

Marjorie Lee had an enormous amount of experience of dealing with people and never lost her poise, no matter to whom she was talking. After the war many Hollywood stars stayed at the Dorchester, and she numbered Danny Kaye, Peter Sellers, Somerset Maugham and his secretary-companion Alan Searle among her friends. She organised a 50th birthday party for Richard Burton in 1975, and lined the Orchid Room with costermonger stalls serving bangers and mash. She very deftly handled the press coverage for the wedding of Lord Mountbatten's daughter Pamela to David Hicks in January 1960, at which Princess Anne was one of the bridesmaids.

Marjorie Lee seemed to be present at every function, and astonished those much younger than herself with her stamina. She could leave a party in the small hours of the morning and be back at her desk, looking bright and imperturbable, only a few hours later. There was a formidable edge to her character and she could appear cold and forbiding to staff when she was annoyed by slackness or ineptitude. But more usually she was warm, friendly and quick to see the amusing side of things.

She retired first in 1978, when the Dorchester was sold to a new consortium, but then was asked back shortly afterwards, retiring properly in 1980. The Dorchester had been her home and family, and she never married.

With her customary independence, she went to live in Melbourne at the age of 74, where a niece had emigrated. There she gave talks on the Dorchester and was involved by the present management of the hotel in more promotional activities. She loved knitting and dogs, and kept poodles in England and King Charles spaniels in Australia. She remained in robust health until three months ago.

DAVID KENNEDY

David Kennedy, former US Secretary of the Treasury, died on May 1 aged 90. He was born on July 21, 1905.



ALTHOUGH an enormously successful banker, as a politician David Kennedy showed an inconvenient tendency towards honesty. Soon after being chosen by President-Elect Richard Nixon as Treasury Secretary, and before the appointment had even been confirmed, Kennedy told a press conference that he could not rule out the possibility that the Nixon Administration would raise the price of gold — fixed at $35 an ounce — in order to stabilise the dollar.

The result was a speculative surge in the European gold markets, driving up the price of the precious metal. When after his confirmation hearings, Kennedy announced that the price of gold would in fact be maintained, a lot of speculators lost a lot of money.

A few months later, in early 1970, Kennedy compounded the offence by threatening to impose wage and price controls if Congress failed to maintain the 10 per cent surtax imposed by President Johnson in a bid to curb inflation. This latest blunder, along with a tight monetary policy which caused rising unemployment and a major fall in the stock market, was widely blamed for a poor Republican showing in the congressional elections of November 1970. Kennedy offered himself as a scapegoat and resigned, to be succeeded by the former Governor of Texas John Connally.

The non-partisan Kennedy, who had previously held posts in both the Eisenhower and Johnson Administrations, was widely viewed as a conservative. However, he was by no means a conservative of the modern Republican or Thatcherite stamp. Although he believed in a balanced budget and strong fiscal restraints, he was equally convinced that government and industry bore a joint responsibility for alleviating the plight of the poor. "The men who run American industry today," he said in a 1968 interview, "can no longer shrug their shoulders and say that the poor are always with us, and there is little we can do about it."

Kennedy did something about it himself in his role as chairman and chief executive of the Continental Illinois Bank — which he built into the eighth largest in the United States. He hired scores of hard-core unemployed blacks and Hispanics, arranged training and employment for high school dropouts, and committed $65 million for low-cost housing loans.

Although his family owned a small bank in Utah, it was some time before David Maxwell Kennedy was to join the profession. He was a devout Mormon, and after graduating from college in 1928 he spent two years as a missionary in England before deciding that he would embark on a career as a lawyer. While studying at George Washington University's Law School, however, he took a job with the Federal Reserve System, reopening and liquidating banks beset by the Depression. The experience convinced him that finance would be a more attractive profession than law, and he went on to study banking while continuing to work at the Federal Reserve.

By the end of the Second World War, Kennedy had acquired an impressive reputation and was sought after by several leading banks in New York. He decided instead to go to Chicago, where he became vice-president of Continental Illinois in 1951, president in 1956, and chairman of the board and chief executive in 1959. Under Kennedy's leadership, especially in expanding business overseas, the bank's earnings grew faster than those of any of the ten largest American institutions during the 1960s.

He seemed the ideal choice for Nixon's Treasury Secretary, and took a salary cut of $198,750 to assume the post. It may have been with some relief, however, that he accepted the job of Ambassador-at-large in the Nixon Cabinet after his resignation, mainly dealing with negotiating trade agreements. He also served for a year as Ambassador to Nato, before retiring to private life in 1973.

His wife Lenora, to whom he was married for 70 years, died last year. He leaves four daughters.

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NIGHT SCENES IN LONDON

ROYAL FAMILY ON PALACE BALCONY

The biggest crowd seen outside Buckingham Palace since the Silver Jubilee, outnumbering even those of the Coronation, greeted the King and Queen and the two Princesses when they appeared on the balcony last night.

The people packed the pavements and the roadway in front of the Palace, and for a long way down the Mall. They stood in silence listening to the King's broadcast speech, and at the end of it raised a great cheer, and sang the National Anthem.

Then the crowd began to chant "We want the King." A few minutes later the King and Queen appeared on the balcony with the Princesses and waved and smiled to the crowds. The King was in naval uniform, and the Queen was wearing a white ermine wrap over her evening gown, and had a diamond tiara in her hair. For five minutes there was a tumult of cheering.

About 10.45 the King and Queen and the Princesses again came out on to the balcony, where they stayed about 10 minutes, waving to the crowd in response to cheers. Shortly before midnight when searchlights were being flashed across the sky, their Majesties appeared on the balcony again, and remained there for a few minutes. When they returned to the palace most of the crowd, left for home. Earlier the two Princesses, escorted by Guards officers, had left the palace to mingle with the crowd outside.

Everywhere crowds listened silently to the loud-speaker relays of the King's speech. Some 60,000 people in Trafalgar Square, bareheaded, joined in singing the National Anthem. A crowd of about 10,000 listened in Parliament Square.

In Whitehall, as soon as the King had finished speaking, bandsmen of the Grenadier Guards played outside the Ministry of Health and the crowd sang and danced. There was also dancing in other parts of London.

Floodlighting drew great crowds to Buckingham Palace after dark. St Paul's Cathedral was also impressively floodlit by A.T.S. girls. Trafalgar Square was flooded with light as Nelson's Column was illuminated and the crowd grew to about 100,000 as streams of people converged on the square. Searchlights placed in front of the National Gallery lit up the scene and the beams reached along Whitehall. Coloured rockets were sent into the air and thunder flashes, and other fireworks added to the crowd's hilarity. At other points, too, fireworks were mysteriously produced, crowds sang and danced, and Hitler effigies perished on bonfires.

Later, thousands of searchlights circled the skies and with the bangs of exploding fireworks, faint echoes of the sound of rocket guns and not too distant bombs reminded Londoners of bygone air raids. The lights centred on a single spot in the sky like huge spokes of a wheel, but there was no white gleam of aircraft wings there and no shattering roar of gunfire accompanied the spectacle. For the first time since 1939 the people could look up and enjoy the beauty of a peaceful display above their city.

ON THIS DAY

May 9, 1945

The main page was devoted to the surrender of Germany signed at 2.41am on May 7. There was however, one short item of domestic news — the weather forecast returning after an absence of six years.

Bargains of the week — from trips abroad and around Britain to good deals on ferries, hotels and flights

FERRIES

SALLY Ferries has ten daily crossings for a car and up to five passengers on Ramsgate to Dunkirk or Ostend (20 trips on Saturdays) available through broker Eurodrive until June 30. Five-day returns on both routes cost from £57, standard returns from £99. Details: 0181-324 4000.

■ EUROLINK is quoting £75 returns between Sheerness and Vlissingen in Holland for travel by June 30. The fare relates to a car and up to five passengers, with a £40 return supplement for Friday, Saturday and Sunday sailings. Foot passengers or extra car passengers are charged £20 return. Details: 01795 581 000.

■ IRISH Ferries has a £49 one-way price on daylight sailings between Pembroke and Rosslare for a car and up to five passengers (£59 Friday to Sunday). The company also has a 48-hour return for £79. The offers are valid for travel by May 22. Details: 0345 171717.

■ SEA France has launched another offer knocking 50 per cent off brochure prices of £225 to £320 for travel in May. Bookings for the Dover to Calais route must be made seven days in advance. Details: 01304 204204.

■ STENA Line has its own bucket shop, Ferry Plus, through which it is cutting 50 per cent off Dover to Calais fares. The company now quotes five-day fares from £44 for a car and five passengers travelling this month, with summer crossings from £95. Details: 0181-680 4400.

■ HOVERSPEED is offering day trips throughout May and June for £25 on its Folkestone to Boulogne route (£35 Saturdays) and £35 on Dover-Calais (£45). The deals are available through Eurodrive. Details: 0181-324 4000.

HOLIDAYS

TUNISIA for a week from £169 per person including half-board accommodation is available with flights on Sunday from Birmingham and from Manchester for £20 extra with Panorama. Details: 01273 206531.

■ JOINING a private yacht charter sailing from Bodrum, Turkey, around the Aegean coast will cost £777 per person including half-board accommodation with a flight from Gatwick on May 20. Details from Sunworld Sailing: 01273 626284.

■ MALTA for ten nights in half-board accommodation is available for £175 per person from Page & Moy with a flight from Gatwick next Tuesday. Details: 0116-250 7116.

■ PRICES for a fortnight's half-board holiday in May and June at the four-star Elias Beach hotel and country club, Limassol, Cyprus, have been cut by £135 by Amathus Holidays and now start from £605 per person with flights from five English airports. Details: 0171-636 9873.

■ A FORTNIGHT's cruise from £699 for a couple is available from Cruise Classified with flights from London to Menorca on May 18, returning on board the *Amerikanis* via Mediterranean ports Lisbon and Vigo to Le Havre and Zeebrugge. The port tax is an extra. Details: 0171-723 6773.

■ TWO-CENTRE holidays in Thailand featuring Bangkok and Pattaya for 12 nights from £645 per person are among the latest special offers from Thomas Cook Holidays. Details: 01733 332255.

■ EXODUS has availability on a 15-day walking holiday in Tuscany, flying from London tomorrow to explore the Apennine foothills and the Cinque Terre coast with visits to Florence and Lucca. Price: £665 per person including accommodation; meals extra. Details: 0181-675 5550.

■ DRIVE FRANCE has a selection of villas in Brittany and on the Côte d'Azur starting at £59 per person (based on six sharing) for Whit week including ferry crossings from Ramsgate to Dunkerque between May 23 and 25. Details: 0181-395 8888.

■ HAWAII is featured in late availability deals for next month from United Vacations, with prices ranging from £969 per person for a week at a golf and tennis resort on Oahu to £1,434 for a fortnight's two-centre holiday. Details: 0181-313 0999.

HOTELS

GUESTS staying at any of the 35 Swallow hotels in the UK who pay by Mastercard before June 15 will have a chance of winning semifinal tickets to the European Football Championships. Weekend break rates start at £80 a person, for two nights. Details: 0645 404404.

■ BUDDING artists can discover the joys of painting at a special Introduction to Watercolours weekend at the Ipswich Moat House in "Constable Country". The weekend, from June 7 to 9, costs £99 a person for two nights of full-board accommodation plus tuition. Details: 01473 209988.

■ THE Wheatsheaf Hotel at North Waltham in Hampshire is capitalising on the current popularity of Jane Austen, who apparently used to visit the 500-year-old coaching inn regularly. It is offering Jane Austen weekends this summer for £110 a person for two nights' accommodation and dinner, along with a guidebook to Austen's favourite walks and a picnic hamper. Details: 01256 398282.

■ THE Chelsea Hotel in Knightsbridge is running a New York food festival for the next two weeks, offering typical New York and regional American dishes, such as Chesapeake Bay crab cakes and Key Lime pie. Details: 0171-235 4377.

■ THE Conrad International in Chelsea Harbour, London, has a summer rate of £130 a room a night from July 9 to August 31, including a limousine service to Harrods. Details: 0171-823 3000.

■ OAKLEY Court, a countryhouse hotel near Windsor, is offering Racing Weekend packages all summer for £167 a person. This includes two nights' accommodation, dinner on one night, tickets to racing at Ascot, Windsor, Kempton Park or Newbury, plus a picnic hamper. Details: 01753 609988.

■ ASHDOWN Park at Wych Cross in East Sussex has a new short-break rate of £158 a room a night for a minimum of any two nights, with breakfast and dinner included. The hotel is convenient for Glyndebourne and hampers can be provided on request. Details: 01342 824988.

■ ITT Sheraton has launched a special corporate-rate deal for frequent business travellers at 40 of its European hotels. Called Europe Preferred, the scheme offers savings of up to 30 per cent on normal rates. Details: 0800 353535.



RAY ROBERTS

Market forces: Panorama is offering cut-price late-booking holidays to Tunisia

FLIGHTS

BAA is awarding double points to members of its bonus points scheme. The loyalty programme is available at Gatwick and Stansted airports plus Southampton, Aberdeen, Glasgow and Edinburgh. Details: 0800 844844.

■ BRITISH Airways' latest series of World Offers includes Athens for £129, Geneva/ Zurich for £109, Nice £129, Pisa £149, Warsaw £119. Book by May 22. Details: 0345 222111.

■ SCANDINAVIAN Airlines is extending its "Fly SAS — stay free" offer when business-class passengers receive one night's free accommodation in Scandinavia or Finland. The deal covers most flights departing the UK. Details: 0171-734 4020.

■ LAUDA Air is providing a free night at the Vienna Hilton for business fare flights from Gatwick or Manchester. Details: 0800 767737.

■ BRITISH Airways Express is adding a fifth daily Gatwick-Dublin flight during the July-September summer peak. Fares start at £79 return. Details: 0345 222111.

■ DOUBLE Air Miles are being offered to executive club members booking BA business class flights to the Continent out of Glasgow, Birmingham, Manchester and Edinburgh. Details: 0990 322322.

■ TRAVEL Warehouse is charging £699 for peak season round-trip flights to Australia or New Zealand via Hong Kong. Book before May 31. Details: 0171-414 8808.

■ THAI International has lower business class fares to Vietnam and Burma. A round trip ticket via Bangkok to Saigon costs £2,579 with Hanoi priced at £2,599, and Rangoon at £2,511. Details: 0171-499 9113.

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Wanted: someone to sell Britain

AFTER two months of poring over a dwindling list of likely names, Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, seems almost ready to announce the successor to Adele Biss, whom she brusquely removed from the job of chief saleswoman for Britain.

Such luminaries as Sir Colin Marshall, the chairman of British Airways, Sir John Egan, the chief executive of the airport operator BAA, former Tory MP Sir Robert McCrindle, Sir Rocco Forte and even Lord Archer are all believed to have been "in the frame" at one time or another to become joint chairman of the British Tourist Authority (BTA) and the English Tourist Board when Ms Biss's three-year contract expires at the end of this month.

But the rumour mill has now ground out a contender who has proved to be remarkably skilful and knowledgeable and something of a stick, if amateur, politician too — Roy Tutty.

Mr Tutty, 46, was plucked from the Forte hotel company and asked to spend six months with the Department of National Heritage as tourism adviser.

He advised so well that, even though in the meantime he was appointed director of industry affairs by Forte's new owners Granada, his secondment to Whitehall was extended until early 1997.

His temporary job is already remarkably similar to that done by the chairman of the BTA and it seems logical for him simply to move across. The problem, say insiders who claim to know about these things, could be the measly £41,000-a-year salary.

Some expect an announcement next week. Others believe that Mrs Bottomley is looking for a real "heavyweight" who has charisma, is an expert in the industry, and is better known both at home and abroad than Mr Tutty.



The Travel Business

HARVEY ELLIOTT

Whatever happens, a new BTA chairman should be appointed quickly because there is an awful lot to be done.

The BSE "mad cow" scare, for example, has frightened off thousands of visitors just as Britain was attracting growing numbers of free-spending foreign tourists. "Many people who cancelled told their travel agent that they were terrified that just by being in Britain they would catch some awful disease," said one tour operator. "Some bookings — especially from younger people — were cancelled in droves. We need someone who can get the facts across."

The new tourist chief will also have to confront the problem of soaring hotel prices, which have persuaded American holidaymakers especially to give Britain a miss in favour of Italy or France.

Last year hotel room rates went up by 12 per cent, price rises are even steeper for the coming Euro '96 football competition and there is an attempt to impose yet another 8 per cent rise on tour operators later this summer and next winter.

Mr Tutty would appear to be the ideal man to take this problem on. But if Labour get into power they may want to put their own appointee into the post. What of Mr Tutty then?

He simply returns to Granada whence he came and reassumes the waiting director's chair.

All too neat? Possibly. Mrs Bottomley could still wait until she can choose someone who more nearly fits her ideal. The travel industry just hopes that she makes a choice soon.

Visitors to Santa left in the dark

By Harvey Elliott

AN ESSEX woman who did not realise that midwinter in Lapland could be very cold and dark is planning to sue a tour operator for failing to warn her in advance.

Sue Beattie from Dagenham paid £1,120 for a day trip to see Santa Claus at his home in Ivalo in Lapland with her husband and five-year-old twins on December 22 last year.

"Your failure to mention that the tour would be in complete darkness and that our departure date was Ivalo's shortest day of the year in your brochure is misleading and in law amounts to misrepresentation," she wrote.

Canterbury Travel of Northwood, Middlesex, denied that it was to blame for Mrs Beattie's disappointment and will defend any action she brings to court. Yesterday, *Holiday Which?* magazine highlighted her problems.

"The Beatties travelled on the shortest day of the year — which Canterbury had not mentioned — and after a cheerless flight delayed by 45 minutes found not even the smallest glimmer of light. Even worse they were advised that it was too cold for skidoo or sleigh rides," the magazine writes.

The pictures illustrating the day trip which appeared in the company's glossy brochure were taken in bright sunlight. And that, according to Patricia Yates, the editor of *Holiday Which?*, can be very misleading.

"For many children the dream of meeting Santa Claus is completely shattered by the reality of a dark and bleak winter's day," she said.

Adrian Collins, sales director of Canterbury Travel, remained unrepentant yesterday. "On many days in the winter when the sky is clear there are several hours of twilight which the snow reflects enabling you to see everything, even the elves in the trees, clearly," he said.

"Unfortunately on the day Mrs Beattie went it was minus 42 degrees and very overcast. The guides advised against travelling to the centre by either reindeer or skidoo. We cannot control the weather conditions. I am afraid, and that is what it can be like in the Arctic in December."

The company, which takes about 5,000 holidaymakers on day trips to Lapland each year, has, however, now included a picture taken in the darkness. "You can't see much, but no one will be able to complain they did not know what it would be like," he said.

Holiday Which? has also highlighted another serious problem for holidaymakers. Those who hire cars in Corfu or in Spain could find themselves driving a deathtrap, according to the magazine. It claims that 12 out of 41 cars rented from local firms were in a dangerous state and that five out of 16 hired from multinational companies were just as bad.

All but one of the 17 dangerous cars had unsafe tyres and 20 cars had "clearly been badly serviced or not checked between hirers", the magazine says.

Only five of the 57 cars tested passed with flying colours. "People's lives are being put at risk," said Patricia Yates. "We have asked hire companies to take these unfit cars off the road and take more responsibility for the safety of their customers. In the meantime holidaymakers should look at their hire cars, particularly the tyres, very closely before driving away."

STEPHEN MARKESON



"Boris Yeltsin" bypasses the queue for Madame Tussaud's, a leading tourist draw

UK attractions score

SIZZLING summer temperatures tempted tourists to flock to outdoor attractions last year. The British Tourist Authority (BTA) reports that visitors to country parks rose 7 per cent, those going to gardens increased 5 per cent and the numbers welcomed at historic properties were up 4 per cent.

Overall, visits to Britain's tourist attractions rose 2 per cent in 1995 compared with 1994. BTA statistics show that last year:

☐ Visitor-centre numbers increased by 4 per cent.

☐ Visits to farm attractions were up 3 per cent and steam railways by 2 per cent.

☐ The number of tourists visiting museums and galleries fell by 3 per cent.

☐ Visits to workplaces were down by 2 per cent. But leisure parks and wildlife centres did as well as in 1994.

☐ Alton Towers theme park was again the top admission-charging attraction.

☐ Blackpool Pleasure Beach, with 7.3 million visitors, was the top admission-free attraction, and 5.7 million visited the British Museum, which is also free.

Adèle Biss, the BTA chairman, said: "Increased investment and the bonus of a hot summer tempted more visitors to sample our many tourist attractions. World-class attractions new this year, such as the Leeds Royal Armouries and Legoland at Windsor, should encourage more days out in 1996."

Free attractions reported a 2 per cent increase in admissions and admission-charging centres rose by 1 per cent.

TOP TEN ATTRACTIONS*

Attraction	Visitors
1. Alton Towers, Staffordshire	2,707,000
2. Madame Tussaud's, London	2,703,283
3. Tower of London	2,536,680
4. Chessington World of Adventure, Surrey	1,770,000
5. Science Museum, London	1,556,388
6. St Paul's Cathedral, London	1,500,000
7. Windsor Castle, Berkshire	1,212,305
8. Blackpool Tower	1,205,000
9. Thorpe Park, Surrey	1,166,000
10. Natural History Museum, London	1,084,273

* Excluding free venues

British skiers travel further for best deals

By Graham Duffill

FRANCE took more British skiers than any other country last season but Italy, North America and Canada had huge increases.

North America more than doubled its share to 8 per cent and Italy rose to 18 per cent, according to the annual Ski Industry Report compiled by the tour operator Crystal.

Currency advantage was clearly the main motivation as both venues offered better value than their big three alpine rivals: France fell from 31 per cent of the market to 28 per cent, Austria was down from 26 to 22 per cent and Switzerland fell from 8 to 6 per cent.

Switzerland was eclipsed by Bulgaria, a country most discerning skiers would normally avoid. The Crystal survey, based on a compilation of the numbers carried by tour operators and on resort bednight figures from national tourist offices, shows that the low-cost destination surpassed the once-great skiing country by a few percentage points.

This seems to indicate that skiers still come from both ends of the social spectrum. Crystal believes that those who choose cheap countries, such as Bulgaria and Andorra, are skiers who have been before and take the best they can afford, rather than the usual beginners.

The US and Canada shared 8 per cent of the ski market which, says Andy Perrin, marketing director, indicates that the well-off are excited by North America. "The sheer breadth of skiing available in America will mean that it will continue to be more popular than Canada," he adds.

The cost difference between North America and Europe is probably the lowest it has ever been. Crystal offers skiing in New England from £345 a week although its average holiday in North America costs £750 a week, compared with £440 for Europe.

Most of the major tour operators have already produced the first editions of their brochures for next season and most are increasing their capacity in North America and Italy.

First Choice features Whistler and Banff/Lake Louise for the first time, Winter Park in Colorado, four new Italian resorts and La Massana in Andorra. Airtours is running charter flights from Gatwick and Manchester to Calgary with prices around £500 for ten days room-only in Banff's main hotels. It is adding Whistler, Vail in Colorado and Mammoth in California to its North American programme.

Inghams has included some of the chalets run by Bladon Lines, the middle-market chalet specialist it bought two years ago, to its main brochure. One feature of the weak pound is that chalet holidays offer better value than hotels.

Most operators are offering incentives for early bookers, especially deals on lift tickets, and free lift tickets for children at certain resorts and times.

Lille joins the jet set

By Paul Stevenson

THE new international airport at Lille, which opened ten days ago, offers travellers an alternative to the congested facilities at Paris and Brussels.

The new one-level passenger terminal, ten minutes from the centre of Lille and its Eurostar station, has been designed to relieve Paris and Brussels of 1.5 million passengers a year — a figure which could climb to 8 million in 20 years' time when the London/Paris/Brussels nexus is expected to approach gridlock.

The new airport can also serve passengers who arrive by Eurostar and want to fly on to destinations throughout France and along the Mediterranean. Twenty-five airlines have booked in for business so far. Jean Yves Savina, its director, hopes to attract BA to Lille-Lesquin to relieve Gatwick of excess traffic. "This could be London's fourth airport one day," he said.

Agents take geography test in fight for survival

TRAVEL agents whose staff have a basic knowledge of geography will be eligible for a "quality of service" award as part of a drive to save Britain's high street travel agents, *Harvey Elliott writes.*

Agencies with at least two staff who have passed a test to show they know where the world's main cities and resorts are, and how to make a reservation to get there, will be able to display a certificate.

A revolution in travel as travellers use their own laptop computers, together with an attempt by airlines to bypass travel agents, has forced agencies to improve the way they do business.

The scheme was outlined to 250 delegates at the Institute of Travel and Tourism conference in Cyprus last week. Many speakers predicted that new technology would soon enable travellers to book direct from their own personal computers, bypassing all but the most efficient and knowledgeable agents.

Andrew Waller, British Airways general sales manager, said 20 per cent of the cost of an airline ticket went on selling costs, including travel agents' commission. Low-cost airlines were cutting this cost by using technology to enable passengers to book direct.

New smartcard to speed up airports

By Harvey Elliott

PLANS for an internationally acceptable plastic "smartcard" which will replace existing paper passports, simplify the granting of visas and eliminate queues at airport immigration desks, are close to being finalised.

British officials are working with experts from other countries to produce a system which, they claim, is essential to cope with an expected doubling in the number of travellers over the next decade. Under the scheme, the cost of installing equipment to read the new cards will be met by big business. Companies such as American Express, Diners, Visa and Mastercard have been asked to compete for the huge contract in return for the right to display their logo on each card.

The scheme, known as Fast (Future Automated Screening for Travellers), will rely on biometrics technology, which enables fingerprints, eye patterns, hand scans and other body patterns to be stored on a microchip. Trials have already been held in several countries and experts and civil servants from Australia, Singapore, Bermuda, Hong Kong, Holland, Germany, America and Britain are now refining the system, a prototype of which could be in place next year.

The World Travel and Tourism Council believes that the scheme will greatly enhance security, by making illegal entry to countries much more difficult, as well as speeding up the movement of people across the world.



Airport queueing will be shorter with plastic passports

Upgrade for Blue Train

By Michael Hamlyn

A REVAMP of the Blue Train costing 70 million rand (£11 million) is being undertaken by South Africa's state-owned railways. The luxury "hotel on wheels" runs 250 times a year between Pretoria and Cape Town and does 12 return trips a year from Pretoria to Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe.

Stela Siceau, the Minister for Public Enterprises in President Nelson Mandela's Cabinet, launched the revamp at a media briefing in Cape Town. She said South Africa's tourist industry was experiencing a boom. "Both the local and international markets are enjoying rapid growth," she said, "with the international market expected to grow at the rate of 12 per cent a year for at least the next five years."

Traditionally, she said, the Blue Train draws most of its support from international tourists, and she added that research shows "the typical Blue Train guest is a mature sophisticated world traveller with a high level of discretionary income — exactly the sort of tourist that every country wants to attract".

To enhance the Blue Train's appeal, its carriages are to be converted into all-suite accommodation, and video and audio equipment will be installed along with telephones and fax facilities. The redesign is being carried out by Trish Wilson Associates, responsible for the design of the Palace of the Lost City at Sun City, and the train will become the only one in the world to carry a badge defining it as one of the 200 "leading hotels of the world".

The fares, of course, are going up as a result of the improvements. The cheapest fare on the train at present is 2,500 rand a person for a simple compartment. After the revamp the cheapest fare will be 4,200 rand a person.

TRAVEL ON SATURDAY

Leslie Thomas on the Oriana

When the flowers bloom in Namaqualand

New Zealand's South Island

Weekend break in Normandy

Jill Crawshaw's travel tips

Kate Muir's Insider's Paris

THE SUNDAY TIMES



EDUCATING ARCHER

He married her for her beauty and brains and got a tutor for life. She married a showman and got fame, fortune, politicking and scandal. But who has had the better deal? In The Sunday Times **Magazine** this weekend, Jeffrey and Mary Archer talk to Lesley White

PLUS: WIN FIRST-CLASS FLIGHTS TO WASHINGTON

There are 14 pairs of Virgin Atlantic return flights to be won in our £26,500 **Travel** competition. The star prize is two Upper Class tickets to fly on Virgin's new service to Washington DC. Collect the first of two tokens this Sunday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES *IS* THE SUNDAY PAPERS

THE TIMES TODAY

THURSDAY MAY 9 1996

NEWS

Trolley war dents Sainsbury profits

■ J Sainsbury was forced to count the cost of the supermarket "trolley wars" when it reported a £100 million slump in profits — the first fall in 22 years.

With Tesco reporting surging sales to reinforce its position as supermarket top dog, Sainsbury's is to revamp its marketing strategy, introduce a "loyalty" card and even launch its own credit card and financial services ..... Pages 1, 5

Redwood urges election referendum

■ John Major's hopes of restoring Tory unity in the wake of the local election setback were dented as it was revealed John Redwood is urging ministers to consider holding a referendum about Britain's future in Europe on on general election day in the hope of deterring Sir James Goldsmith from putting up candidates against Tories ..... Pages 1, 10

Help for mothers

Labour is drawing up ambitious plans to make it easier for mothers to combine a career with bringing up a family by offering financial incentives ..... Page 1

Scots fly that flag

The Lord Provosts of Glasgow and Edinburgh said the European flag would fly from their chambers today and appealed to companies to follow ..... Page 2

Olympic nightmare

Every athlete's worst nightmare came true yesterday for a cyclist in Tacoma, Washington: he inadvertently extinguished the Olympic torch ..... Page 3

Beef ban doubts

The European Commission proposed a plan for lifting the worldwide ban on British beef byproducts and bull semen but there were strong doubts that the move would be accepted by member states ..... Page 4

Johnston memories

Brian Johnston left souvenirs from a half-century of English cricket bursting from every shelf and cupboard of his study. Now they are being auctioned in aid of the sport he loved ..... Page 6

Hands off

Lord St John of Fawsley, peered quizzically at Antony Williams's portrait of the Queen and said: "These are not the hands of the Queen" ..... Page 7

Stone age bypass

Archaeologists believe they have unearthed a Stone Age settlement beneath the route of the Newbury bypass. But even if excavations confirm the importance of the site, the £101 million road will be built over it ..... Page 9

Harman saved

An attempt by Labour leftwingers to force Harriet Harman's early removal from the Shadow Cabinet was defeated ..... Page 11

Nuclear waste war

Germany's nuclear "war" came to an almost operatic climax as a cargo of highly radioactive waste reprocessed in France reached its final burial ground in a north German woodland ..... Page 12

Holocaust debate

Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, plunged into the middle of a fierce debate about the Holocaust by saying that Germans should no longer bear collective guilt ..... Page 13

Barry holed up

Eleven days after Marion Barry announced he was starting a retreat to seek "spiritual and physical renewal" Washington's black Mayor was still holed up in Missouri ..... Page 14

Rainbow constitution

South Africa adopted a constitution which, said its negotiator, is the "birth certificate" of the Rainbow Nation ..... Page 15

Mystery of the deep-sea diver

■ Nearly 300 feet under the North Sea a robot oilrig camera picked out a sleek shape sweeping past. The astonished operator believed at first he had seen a penguin thousands of miles from its Antarctic home. But when a video was studied, the deep-sea diver was identified as an amazing flying and diving guillemot ..... Page 1



DES JENSON

Workman erecting the 3.5 acre tent that will be the centrepiece of the Chelsea Flower Show which opens on May 23

BUSINESS

Labour has proposals to abolish the youth training scheme as part of a package to reshape training of the over-16s ..... Page 25

Economy: Kenneth Clarke apparently resisted growing pressure for a rate cut after his monthly meeting with the Bank of England ended with no sign of the Bank adjusting its lending rates ..... Page 25

Insurance: The Royal Bank of Scotland has dropped plans to float its telephone insurer Direct Line after pre-tax profits at the subsidiary fell by £40 million to £5 million for the first half of the year ..... Page 25

Markets: *The FT-SE 100 fell 15.7* points to 3707.3. Sterling rose from 83.9 to 84.1 after a rise from $1.5114 to $1.5162 and from DM2.2993 to DM2.3019 ..... Page 28

SPORT

Rugby union: The Rugby Football Union in England is surrounded by a wall of apparently implacable hostility from its own clubs and its rivals in the five nations' championship ..... Page 48

Football: Rather than provide clarity about the shape of his final squad for the European championship finals Terry Venables named 26 players for the match against Hungary ..... Page 48

Cricket: Vikram Rathore scored 165 for the Indian touring team on the first day of their opening first-class match against Worcester .. Page 48

Boxing: *Lennox Lewis, after a year* under his new trainer Emanuel Steward, has become the complete professional, capable of dealing even with Mike Tyson ..... Page 43

ARTS

New films: *Mr Holland's Opus* presents Richard Dreyfuss in a wishful vision of small-town America, while drama and mayhem on the high seas provide Ridley Scott's *White Squall* ..... Page 37

New videos: Sandra Bullock in *The Net*; Nicole Kidman in *To Die For*; and a 21st birthday edition of *The Rocky Horror Show*: releases reviewed by Geoff Brown ..... Page 38

Laughs abound: *Mind Millie for Me*, a version of Feydeau's farce, is played for laughs and bitter truths in Peter Hall's production starring Felicity Kendal ..... Page 39

Ballet bow: *Christopher Dean* makes his first work for a ballet company, and proves that his talent doesn't just extend to the ice rink ..... Page 39

FEATURES

See you in court: When Doris Duke died, she left her fortune to her butler. But other staff members are fighting the decision ..... Page 17

Motherly advice: Prunella Briance founded the National Childbirth Trust 40 years ago. Her mission was to imbue women with the need to give birth naturally ..... Page 16

BOOKS

Search for truth: Colin Tudge examines the end of the world; Anthony Holden investigates Shakespeare; Lord Longford on Erskine Childers ..... Pages 40,41

TRAVEL

In the dark: A woman who went to see Father Christmas in Lapland is suing a travel agent because she was not told it was cold ..... Pages 22, 23

FOCUS

UCL hospitals: A report on the combination of research and medicine under the University College London umbrella ..... Pages 33-35

THE PAPERS

The international war crimes tribunal for ex-Yugoslavia has begun its first trial in The Hague. If the international community wishes to avoid a repetition of those crimes committed in the name of "ethnic cleansing", Dusan Tadic must not be the only one to be placed in the dock — *El País*, Madrid

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Old Eurohands remember Britain's attempts to join the EEC. *The Poisoned Chalice* (BBC2, 9.30pm) **Review:** Peter Barnard on role reversals ..... Page 47

OPINION

Flaunt it

The mood of the Sixties was swinging and wide-eyed; today's young artists are of a warier disposition. They tend to deal in debris, not dreams. They are here. We should flaunt them ..... Page 19

Vanishing tax cuts

Almost unnoticed, the Government's fiscal position has so deteriorated that there may be no room for tax cuts. If so, the Tories' election campaign will have to be rethought. So may its timing .. Page 19

Union Jacques

Perhaps there should be a competition for a flag specifically designed to suit the Europe of today. A tricolour of straight sausage, cucumber, and banana perhaps? Or a Union Jacques to accompany the EuroDelors ..... Page 19

COLUMNS

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

Gordon Brown and Jacques Chirac both have two-chamber minds. When they make speeches they draw alternately on each and mix the two gases in a lethal cocktail of confusion ..... Page 18

JOHN BRYANT

Women in sport, according to Baron Pierre de Coubertin, the father of the modern Olympics, "have but one task: that of the role of crowning the victor with garlands". The late Beryl Burton, a remarkable cyclist, demonstrated that a woman could beat men in sport .... Page 46

PETER RIDDELL

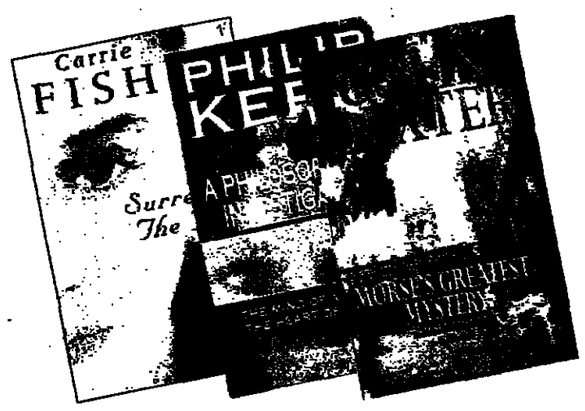
So much for Tory unity. All the pious appeals by ministers over the weekend were brushed aside as Tory MPs indulged in infighting as usual ..... Page 10

OBITUARIES

Sir Howard Smith, British Ambassador in Moscow; **Prebendary Donald Cleverley Ford**, Archbishop of Canterbury's chaplain; **Marjorie Lee**, of the Dorchester Hotel; **David Kennedy**, US secretary of the Treasury ..... Page 21

LETTERS

MPs' earnings; windfarms; British coal; care of Kenwood ..... Page 19



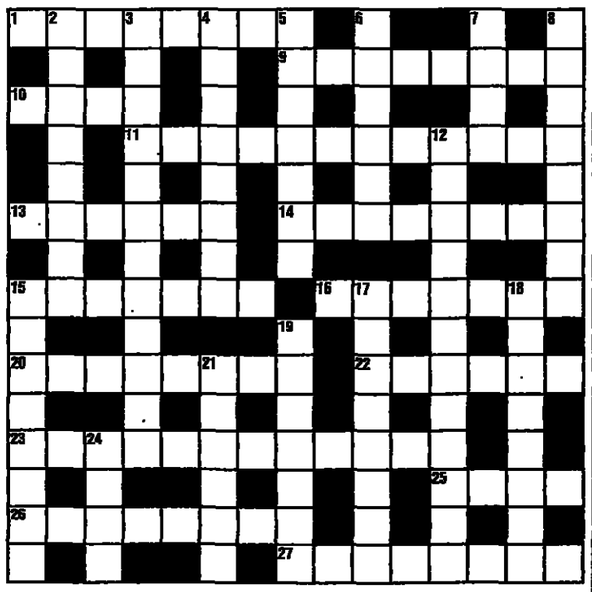
TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **BOOKS OFFER**
Collect tokens for six of the best summer paperbacks for as little as £1.65 each

■ **INTERVIEW**
Valerie Grove meets Helena Bonham Carter, on the eve of the publication of the diaries of her grandmother, Lady Violet

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,163



ACROSS

1 Concerted attack affected gain badly (8).
9 *Whine in the old days for wealth* (8).
10 Bounce up and down in journey on river (4).
11 A charger for those dismounting on the way (7-5).
13 Knock back alcohol within the limit (6).
14 A large number agree it's sufficient (8).
15 Very narrow rule journalist pretended to attack (7).
16 Frame a description of the world's state, according to O'Casey (7).
20 *The Duke of Wellington* certainly isn't such a painting (8).
22 Make more space for a ferry going out (6).
23 Oil container? (7-5).
25 Close in hard trap, after turning back (4).
26 Representing limbs with coy excitement (8).
27 Request to picnic, say, in field (8).

DOWN

2 Person leaving party as teapot spills (8).
3 Publicist for heathen district (12).
4 Alight over the border and trespass (8).
5 Peppercorn no bird left (7).
6 Soldier in Cornish resort gets the bird (6).
7 *Young Marlowe receives new* contract (4).
8 Soldiers from Aberdeen and Norfolk, for example (8).
12 Queen's entire assembly one's seen riding side-saddle (12).
15 Dowdy alewife, say, devouring steak (8).
17 Hit with a dart, disastrously, when busy working (4,2,2).
18 Sort of meals carried aloft on trays (2-6).
19 Building provided with oriental *cubes outside* (7).
21 Haughty cricket groundsman left before close of play (6).
24 Curry fowl, getting maiden to tuck in (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,162

D	O	U	S	L	E	C	R	O	S	S	E	S		
U		N		I		A		R		U		A		M
C	A	T	H	E	D	R	A	L		M	A	L	T	A
K		I		N		E		P		T		N		
S	H	E	E	N		A	W	A	Y		A	S	T	I
A		S		G		N		M		P		N		
N	E	C	K	T	I	E		S	P	I	N	O	U	T
D		O		A				C		O		H		
D	O	N	A	T	E	S		S	P	R	I	N	G	E
R		T		E		O		P		O		S		
A	V	E	R		A	N	T	I		S	H	I	F	T
K		N		D		L		R		C		N		R
E	N	D	U	E		E	L	A	B	O	R	A	T	E
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		R	E	I	N	S	T	A	T	E	M	E	N	T

Times Two Crossword, page 48

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code:

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Glouces,Avon,Somrs	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Heretds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code:

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Solent, Hampshire, 16C (61F); lowest day max: Cape Wrath, Highland 07C (45F); highest rainfall: Sella Ness, and Fair Isle, Shetland, 0.06in; highest sunshine: Tiree, Inner Hebrides, 14.3hr.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 34.5% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 1995

FORECAST

☐ **General:** high pressure to the north of the country will slowly begin to decline. A cold northeasterly flow covers much of the country. Wales, central and western England will be *dry with long clear or sunny spells.* Despite the sunshine it will remain rather on the cold side with a ground frost. Eastern England will be rather more cloudy but for most of the day should stay dry. In the late afternoon and evening, however, a few showers are likely. Here it will be a cold and rather windy day. Northern Ireland and most of Scotland should remain dry with broken cloud and clear or sunny spells. It will remain rather on the cold side in many areas.

☐ **London, E Midlands, W Midlands:** mainly dry with sunny periods, small risk of a few showers in the evening. Winds northerly moderate, locally fresh. Rather cold, max temp 13C (55F).

☐ **SE England, E Anglia, E England:** mainly dry with broken cloud and some sunshine. Risk of a few showers later in the day and through the evening. Winds mainly northerly fresh. Cold, max temp 11C (52F), but even colder on exposed coasts.

☐ **Central S England, Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales, N Wales, NW England:** dry with sunny or clear periods. Winds mainly northerly moderate perhaps fresh. Rather cold, max temp 14C (57C).

☐ **Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, NW Scotland:** mainly dry with sunny then clear periods. Winds mainly moderate northerly. Rather cold, max temp 12C (54F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney:** mainly dry with broken cloud and sunny or clear intervals. *Winds northeasterly mainly moderate.* Rather cold, max temp 10C (50F), but colder near coasts.

☐ **Outlook:** becoming increasingly unsettled with showers spreading to many areas.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain, sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	5.8	0.02	9	48	b	Lerwick	7.6	0.04	9	48	h
Anglesey	13.9	-	14	57	s	Lauchars	7.2	0.01	10	50	sh
Aspatria	10.9	0.01	14	57	s	Littlehmptn	12.8	-	14	57	s
Aviemore	2.9	0.03	8	46	sh	London	13.3	-	13	55	s
Birmingham	13.1	-	13	55	s	Lowestoft	11.3	-	9	48	s
Bognor R	13.1	-	15	59	s	Manchester	10.4	-	13	55	s
Bournemo'th	-	-	15	59	s	Margate	12.3	-	10	50	s
Bristol	10.4	-	14	57	s	Minehead	12.1	-	12	54	s
Buxton	8.5	-	13	55	s	Morecambe	7.9	-	14	57	s
Cardiff	13.8	-	14	57	s	Newquay	X				
Clacton	13.8	-	10	50	s	Norwich	11.8	-	9	48	s
Cleethorpes	X	X	X	X		Oxford	13.3	-	13	55	s
Colwyn Bay	12.5	-	11	52	s	Penzance	12.7	-	14	57	s
Cromer	9.5	-	8	46	s	Poole	13.2	-	15	59	s
Dunbar	6.3	-	10	50	b	Prestatyn	X	-	11	52	s
Eastbourne	12.4	-	14	57	s	Ross-o-wye	13.1	-	15	59	s
Edinburgh	6.7	0.01	13	55	b	Ryde	13.3	-	14	57	s
Eskdalemuir	6.9	0.01	11	52	b	Salcombe	12.5	-	15	59	s
Exmouth	13.8	-	14	57	s	Sandown	12.1	-	14	57	s
Falmouth	11.2	-	15	59	s	Saunto Snd	13.0	-	15	59	s
Fishguard	12.8	-	11	52	s	Scarboro'	13.0	-	8	46	s
Folkestone	12.7	-	11	52	s	Shanklin	12.7	-	14	57	s
Glasgow	7.8	-	14	57	s	Shrewsbury	9.2	-	13	55	s
Guernsey	12.7	-	13	55	s	Skegness	12.5	-	9	48	s
Hastings	12.8	-	12	54	s	Southend	11.7	-	12	54	s
Hayling I.	12.8	-	15	59	s	Southport	9.6	-	12	54	s
Herne Bay	12.5	-	9	48	s	Southsea	11.5	-	15	59	s
Hove	11.7	0.01	15	59	s	Stornoway	10.1	0.02	9	48	b
Hunstanton	11.0	-	9	48	s	Swanage	12.7	-	13	55	s
Ilfracombe	X					Teignmouth	13.6	-	15	59	s
Isle of Man	12.5	-	14	57	s	Tiree	14.3	-	11	52	s
Jersey	8.2	0.01	14	57	s	Torquay	13.2	-	15	59	s
Kinloss	2.8	0.04	9	48	sh	Ventnor	12.5	-	15	59	s
Leeds	10.1	-	12	54	s	Weymouth	11.6	-	15	59	s

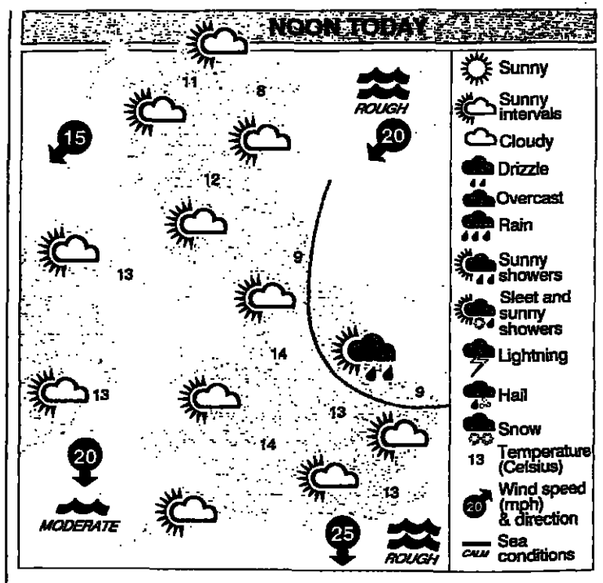
ABROAD

Ajaccio	21	70	s	Corfu	31	88	s	Majorca	33	73	s
Alcabir	33	91	s	C'phagn	9	48	r	Malaga	17	63	r
Alex'dria	33	91	s	Dublin	11	52	f	Malta	24	75	s
Algiers	20	68	r	Dubrovnik	24	75	s	Malt'rmo	13	55	c
Amst'dm	14	57	s	Faro	19	66	f	Mexico C	22	72	s
Athens	28	82	s	Florence	26	77	s	Miami	30	86	f
B Aires	25	77	f	Frankfurt	14	57	f	Milan	23	73	s
Bahrain	34	93	s	Funchal	19	66	f	Montreal	18	64	x
Bangkok	35	95	f	Geneva	19	66	f	Moscow	22	72	c
Barbados	29	84	f	Gibraltar	20	68	c	Munich	23	73	s
Barcelona	19	66	f	Helsinki	7	45	c	N Delhi	38	100	s
Beirut	22	72	f	Hong K	25	77	s	N York	16	61	s
Belgrade	26	81	s	Innsbruck	23	73	s	Nairobi	25	77	f
Berlin	9	48	r	Istanbul	20	68	s	Naples	23	73	f
Bermuda	20	68	s	Jeddah	36	97	f	Nice	20	68	f
Biarritz	17	63	f	Jo'burg	18	64	f	Oslo	12	54	s
Bord'x	15	59	r	L Angels	23	73	s	Paris	20	68	f
Brussels	15	59	s	L Palmas	23	73	f	Peking	21	70	s
Budapst	28	73	s	Le Tquet	14	57	f	Perth	30	86	c
Cairo	36	97	s	Lisbon	17	63	f	Prague	18	64	f
Cape Tn	17	63	s	Locarno	19	66	f	Reykjavik	5	41	s
Ch'church	11	52	x	Luxembg	14	57	s	Rhodes	27	81	s
Chicago	12	54	f	Luxor	42	108	s	Rio de J	27	81	s
Cologne	12	54	r	Madrid	10	50	f	Riyadh	39	102	f

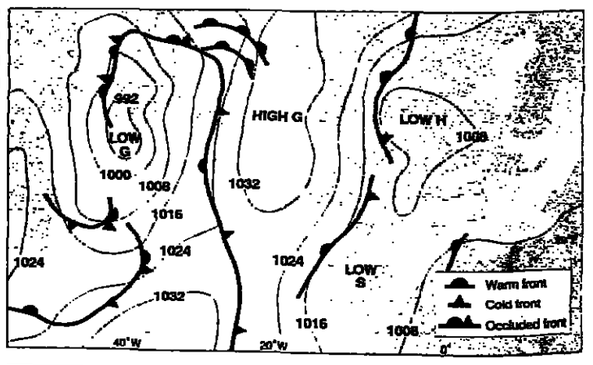
Majorca	33	73	s	Rome	21	70	f
Malaga	17	63	r	S F'isco	16	61	s
Malta	24	75	s	S Paulo	25	77	f
Malt'rmo	13	55	c	Salzburg	23	73	s
Mexico C	22	72	s	Santiago	16	61	c
Miami	30	86	f	Seoul	23	73	f
Milan	23	73	s	Sing'por	32	90	f
Montreal	18	64	x	St'kholm	9	48	f
Moscow	22	72	c	Strasb'rg	17	63	s
Munich	23	73	s	Sydney	22	72	s
N Delhi	38	100	s	Tangier	20	68	c
N York	16	61	s	Tel Aviv	26	79	s
Nairobi	25	77	f	Tenerife	21	70	c
Naples	23	73	f	Tokyo	18	61	f
Nice	20	68	f	Toronto	14	57	c
Oslo	12	54	s	Tunis	25	77	s
Paris	20	68	f	Valencia	20	68	f
Peking	21	70	s	Vanc'ver	8	46	c
Perth	30	86	c	Venice	21	70	s
Prague	18	64	f	Vienna	22	72	s
Reykjavik	5	41	s	Warsaw	18	64	c
Rhodes	27	81	s	Wash'ton	12	54	c
Rio de J	27	81	s	Wel'ngton	16	61	x
Riyadh	39	102	f	Zurich	22	72	s

Temperatures at midday local time. Tuesday's figures are latest available

NOON TODAY



Changes to chart below from noon: high G will drift north with little change; low G will move north and low H will move northeast, both filling; low S will persist



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	5 52	6.6	6 07	6.3	Leith	6 44	5.1	7.23	5.0
Aberdeen	5.27	3.8	6.18	3.7	Liverpool	3.10	8.7	3.44	8.3
Avonmouth	11.16	11.8	11.41	11.8	Lowestoft	1.28	2.3	1.27	2.3
Belfast	2.59	3.4	3.52	3.2	Margate	4.00	4.4	4.14	4.2
Cardiff	11.03	10.3	11.35	10.1	Milford Haven	10.27	6.1	10.57	6.1
Devonport	10.00	4.8	10.18	4.9	Newquay	9.20	6.0	9.50	6.0
Dover	2.51	6.2	3.23	6.1	Oban	9.43	3.1	10.25	3.3
Dublin (N Wall)	3.31	3.9	4.23	3.7	Penzance	8.44	4.8	9.19	4.9
Falmouth	9.11	4.5	9.42	4.6	Portland	10.43	1.7	11.03	1.7
Greenock	4.08	3.3	4.51	3.1	Portsmouth	3.07	4.3	3.52	4.3
Harwich	3.43	3.7	4.03	3.5	Shoreham	2.59	5.7	3.36	5.6
Holyhead	2.10	5.2	2.51	4.8	Southampton	2.35	4.2	3.14	4.2
Hull (Albert Dk)	10.17	6.8	11.06	6.5	Swansea	10.31	8.4	11.02	8.3
Ilfracombe	10.07	8.2	10.39	8.2	Tees	7.51	5.0	8.37	4.8
King's Lynn	10.18	6.4	10.52	5.9	Walton-on-Naze	3.38	4.0	4.00	3.8

Crown copyright reserved. All times GMT. Heights in metres

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 5.18 am
Sun sets: 8.37 pm
Moon sets: 11.19 am
Moon rises: 1.26 am

London 8.37 pm to 5.16 am
Bristol 8.47 pm to 5.26 am
Edinburgh 9.08 pm to 5.10 am
Manchester 8.53 pm to 5.17 am
Penzance 8.54 pm to 5.43 am

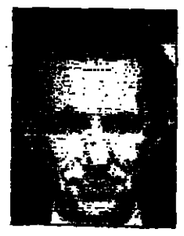
Last quarter tomorrow

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ANATOLE KALETSKY 29

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Lighting a candle for medical research



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The romantic who wrote The Riddle of the Sands

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY MAY 9 1996

Labour aims to scrap Youth Training programme

BY PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

LABOUR will abolish the Government's youth training scheme as part of an ambitious package to reshape post-16 training, according to proposals about to be announced.

The abolition of the Youth Training programme, widely criticised now for failing to provide sufficiently high-quality industrial training for young people, is a key element in a new training package worth up to £1.5 billion to be unveiled later this month by Labour.

The move follows Labour's abandonment of a levy on employers to fund training, and its adoption instead of Tessa-style individual learning accounts (ILAs), coupled with tax incentives for companies which provide training. Labour is pleased with the response from business to its plans to provide £150 grants for 1 million people to start their individual accounts.

Labour's new proposals will focus on training provision for 16 to 25-year-olds, and include the controversial idea that the party is considering of moving away from universal provision of child benefit for 16 to 18-year-olds.

The ILA package, for training people in work, amounts to only about £300 million, but Labour's proposals for 16 to 25-year-olds will be contained in a package amounting to about £1.5 billion or more, with the aim of funding high quality training for young people in this target group.

New Labour wants to move away from high throughout but low quality training schemes, with the aim of providing high quality training to fit with Labour's plans for a high value-added economy, rather than one competing on the basis of low skills and low wages.

The package will include proposals to abolish the current Youth Training programme, set up by the Government in 1990 in succession to the highly-criticised Youth Training Scheme. YT currently offers places to some 277,000 young people, but Labour leaders now feel it too no longer offers high quality training.

Labour leaders, who will emphasise that the cost of the new scheme can be met from existing resources, calculate that YT abolition will free some £550 million for a new, higher-quality scheme. If abolition of universal child benefit for 16 to 18-year-olds goes ahead — Labour says that 53 per cent of eligible parents no longer take it up — that could add a further £700 million.

Labour wants to move away from "revolving door" training schemes, which offer a period of training and then leave people unemployed again. Labour will, instead of YT, propose a scheme currently called Target 2000, which will aim to provide for all those of school-leaving age basic standards of literacy, numeracy, team and information technology skills which business leaders have told Labour that they want.

Labour is also considering an addition to the Investors in People training standard, which a growing number of companies are adopting as a way of improving their training and people management abilities.

Labour's proposals are likely to include a new Investors in Young People standard, which would be granted to employers in recognition of training levels for young people in particular.

In addition, Labour is preparing a further set of policies to deal with disadvantaged over-25s in the labour market — in particular, new proposals on childcare for working women, in line with its forthcoming welfare-to-work strategy, and proposals on training, rebuilding self-confidence and re-establishing contact with work for the long-term unemployed who have been out of work for more than a year.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3707.3	(–15.7)
Yield	4.01%	
FT-SE A All share	1870.23	(–7.68)
Nikkei	21728.60	(+233.32)
New York:		
Dow Jones	5364.59	(–58.36)*
S&P Composite	651.32	(–6.94)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5¼%*	(5¼%)
Long Bond	86²⁄₃₂*	(86¹¹⁄₃₂)
Yield	7.09%*	(7.08%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	6%	(6%)
Liffe long gilt future (Jun)	105¹⁄₃	(104¹⁰⁄₃₂)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.5215*	(1.5107)
London:		
$	1.5162	(1.5113)
DM	2.3018	(2.2991)
FFr	7.7915	(7.7746)
SFr	1.8705	(1.8744)
Yen	159.55	(158.67)
£ Index	84.1	(83.9)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.5155*	(1.5257)
FFr	5.1270*	(5.1550)
SFr	1.2325*	(1.2445)
Yen	105.16*	(105.21)
$ Index	96.2	(96.2)

Tokyo close Yen 105.40

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jul).. $18.40 ($18.25)

GOLD

London close..... $394.95 ($393.65)

* denotes midday trading price

RBS scraps Direct Line flotation

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

THE Royal Bank of Scotland has dropped any plans to float its telephone insurer Direct Line after pre-tax profits at the subsidiary fell £40 million to £5 million for the first half of the year.

Direct Line's results underlined the current turmoil in the insurance industry, which has suffered from intense competition and a rush of late entrants into the direct market. It is the largest private motor insurer in the UK with a 14 per cent share of the market and 2.2 million policyholders.

RBS group pre-tax profit for the half year was up 11 per cent to £301 million (£270 million). George Mathewson, chief executive, said he would consider growth through acquisition "if the price and fit were right".

He said some building societies "could be interesting" to buy, but said any deal would have to be amicable. "We are not in the game of making hostile bids because you end up paying too much."

Peter Wood, Direct Line's chairman, said motor premiums in general had fallen 20 per cent in two years and current rates were "unsustainable". He gave warning that further consolidation was inevitable and said smaller motor insurers were prime takeover targets. "If the price and the timing was right we would consider acquisitions, but we are in no hurry," he said.

Two household names in insurance, Sun Alliance and Royal Insurance, last week announced plans to merge and analysts speculated that General Accident, one of the six largest composite insurers, might launch a bid for its rival Guardian.

Dr Mathewson said there were "no plans" to float Direct Line. However, he said there were opportunities to develop sales of Direct Line's financial products, including the selling of mortgages and deposit accounts.

Mr Wood blamed the fall in profits for the six months to March 31 on bad weather and on competition. He said Direct Line would increase motor rates by up to 4 per cent this year and predicted the rest of the industry would increase rates by an average 10 to 15 per cent by December. "We have been been feeling the pain but our costs are the lowest in the industry, so our rivals must have been feeling even more," he said. Weather claims cost £22 million for the six months, of which £16 million was claims from householders whose pipes had burst in the cold snap over Christmas.

The cost of reducing premiums to win business from rivals cost Direct Line a further £25 million. Premium income fell 0.7 per cent even though the number of policyholders increased in the motor and household markets.

The City was pleased with the results for RBS, where Lord Younger of Prestwick is chairman and Bob Speirs group finance director. The shares rose 6p to 528p. "Costs look well under control, bad debts are in line and Direct Line was only as bad as expected," one analyst said.

In RBS's UK banking divisions, profit before tax increased 23 per cent to £246 million (£200 million). In branch banking, where 730 staff have been cut as part of an overhaul of operations, pre-tax profit increased by 22 per cent to a record £129 million and at the corporate and institutional banking division by 29 per cent to £94 million. The operations division increased its profit 10 per cent to £23 million.

Earnings per share were 21.3p (20.1p) and the dividend per share is 5.4p (4.6p).

The income ratio for the group improved to 49.9 per cent with expenses up 3 per cent and provision for bad debts was reduced by £25 million to £45 million.

Tempus, page 28
City Diary, page 29

ROBIN MAYES



Bob Speirs, left, Lord Younger and George Mathewson yesterday pleased the City

Rate cut hopes on wane

KENNETH CLARKE, the Chancellor, apparently resisted growing pressure for a rate cut after his monthly meeting with the Bank of England ended yesterday with no sign of the Bank adjusting its lending rates (Alasdair Murray writes).

Many economists now believe that rates will not be cut in the near future and may even rise later in the year, although the timing of a rise will be complicated by the election date.

Speculation that Mr Clarke would cut rates had increased over recent weeks after the publication of economic data showing sluggish GDP growth of 0.4 per cent in the first quarter of the year and a manufacturing sector on the brink of recession.

But the Bank of England is believed to have opposed any cut in rates, pointing to data which shows consumer spending is accelerating, raising the threat of higher inflation.

Political pressure for a rate cut, to help to stimulate the economy, may still grow ahead of the election.

Lang to clarify power policy

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

IAN LANG, President of the Board of Trade, is today expected to shed light on the Government's highly criticised policing of the electricity industry.

Mr Lang will use a speech to the Adam Smith Institute, the free-market think-tank, to explain recent Government decisions that have surprised the City and the industry. These include the blocking of the generators' bids for regional electricity companies.

Mr Lang, who last week committed the Government to maintaining its golden shares in the big two generators, is under pressure to reveal a coherent policy for electricity after a spate of takeovers and doubts over the acceptability of vertical integration and competition in generation.

Pressure for clarification of Government policy yesterday intensified as it emerged that Southern Company, the US power company which said it wanted to merge with National Power, the UK's largest generator, is holding talks with the DTI, Offer and the OFT.

Southern said it had relinquished the fight for National Power after the golden share commitment effectively scuppered its pursuit. It said it was working with regulatory authorities to "overcome barriers to market entry in electricity generation and supply".

The company, in a bowed-but-not-defeated stance, said: "The UK electricity industry remains attractive for the Southern Company, which last year made an investment of £1.1 billion in buying Sweb".

☐ Professor Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator, is today holding meetings with investment analysts. The regulator is also seeking to clarify the regulatory issues facing the sector.

UBS lifts house price forecast

BY SARA MCCONNELL

HOUSING analysts at UBS yesterday raised their house price forecast for 1996 from 2 to 5 per cent. Its revised forecast follows sharp rises in the Halifax price index over the past three months and nine successive monthly increases.

Other commentators will almost certainly follow suit. The Halifax said it would review its present forecast of 2 per cent at the end of this month. Helen Dunn, the Halifax's economist said: "The direction will be upwards when we review." But Ms Dunn said that the market was fragmented, with good properties selling quickly while others stuck.

Prices are now set to peak in 1998, growing 9 per cent year on year, UBS predicts. The south of the country is expected to lead the recovery, but UBS is not expecting a return of the huge north-south house price divides of the 1980s. Northern Ireland, Greater London and Wales will see the strongest price rises this year.

Rob Thomas, UBS housing specialist, said: "Rarely have there been so few clouds on the housing market's horizon. Housing is more affordable that it has been for a generation, mortage rates are at their lowest level since the mid-1960s."

UBS expects 1.2 million homes to change hands in 1996, compared with its previous prediction of 1.25 million. But this would still be a 6 per cent rise on transaction levels in 1995.

Price rises will mean a fall in the numbers of people in negative equity by almost half to 590,000 by the end of this year, compared with 960,000 in the first quarter of the year.

Pay storm brewing for BNB Resources meeting

BY JON ASHWORTH

TROUBLE is brewing at BNB Resources, the training group that owns Norman Broadbent International (NBI), the executive search firm. Mass defections and spiralling salaries are expected to dominate proceedings when shareholders gather for BNB's annual meeting on May 23.

Questions will focus on the expanded role of David Norman, the BNB chairman, whose remuneration climbed to £765,000 (£679,000) in the year to December 31, according to BNB's newly issued annual report. Mr Norman was paid £366,000 in salary and fees, and earned a £368,000 bonus. Other benefits, including cars, travel, telephone and medical insurance, amounted to £31,000. Mr Norman's salary includes £67,000 in lieu of pension contributions.

Shareholders are expected to question the departure of Miles Broadbent, who "retired" as chairman of NBI in February, after a split with Mr Norman. Mr Broadbent, 60, has formed a new agency, the Miles Partnership, and is intent on building a thriving practice. Three former colleagues, Julian Sainty, Christopher Beatson-Hird, and Ralph Grayson, left in March to form Sainty Hird & Partners, another London agency. The trio formerly comprised NBI's financial services practice.

Further reports of resignations at NBI's office in New York could not be confirmed yesterday, although Roger Quick, former head of the Chicago office, was recently drafted in to take charge of US operations.

BNB last year increased pre-tax profits by 58 per cent, to £5.7 million. Under a lock-in clause, Mr Broadbent and the Sainty trio must pay 50 per cent of their earnings over the next 12 months to NBI.

Mr Broadbent was ousted at a BNB board meeting last October, after an extraordinary display of boardroom gymnastics. Intent on becoming chairman of both NBI and BNB, Mr Norman packed the board in his favour, appointing ten new directors, three of whom were secretaries. Non-executive directors including Sir Peter Holmes, former chairman of Shell Transport and Trading, resigned in protest.

Mr Broadbent agreed to work until his 60th birthday on February in return for his share of 1995 profits — effectively a golden handshake that funded his new venture.

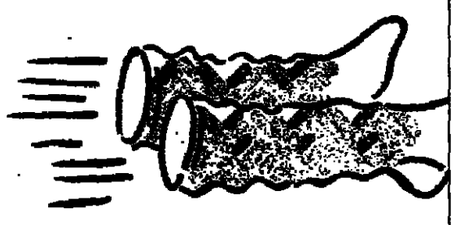
Mr Broadbent declined to comment on his dealings with NBI. Newly settled with two researchers in premises in Park Lane, he said: "As far as I'm concerned, it's business as usual, but under a different partnership. I'm not dead yet. I have not retired."

MORSE

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Nuclear buyers will have to foot clean-up bill

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government yesterday agreed that Britain's nuclear industry liabilities will have to be accepted by any buyer of the industry on privatisation.

Ministers acknowledged that this principle will be followed in the planned sale of the nuclear industry in its response to a report on the privatisation from the all-party Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee — though some MPs believe that if this idea is properly applied, it will make any sale of nuclear highly unlikely.

The committee strongly recommended that regardless of the level of nuclear liabilities for disposing of waste and decommissioning nuclear stations at the end of their lives — which could be up to £8 billion — those liabilities should follow the assets from which they arose.

In its response, published yesterday, the Government said it "agrees strongly" with the committee on the issue, and said: "The Government can confirm that this principle has been followed."

The Government also set out in its reply the provisions that will be made for the so-called segregated fund that it has now set up to ensure that the taxpayer will not be left with the cost of nuclear liabilities after privatisation.

Full details of contributions for the fund are to be included in the forthcoming prospectus for the sale of British Energy, still set for summer.

However, before that, the Government's statement yesterday said that, on privatisation, Nuclear Electric will pay £157 million to the fund initially, and Scottish Nuclear £71 million. Thereafter NE will make annual payments of £12 million, and SN £4million, for the following 40 years.

The Government, which said that such levels of provision were "prudent", said that the fund will seek to hold assets equal to 110 per cent of accrued discounted decommissioning liabilities — though Labour MPs suggested that revaluations of the assets could substantially affect the level of liabilities and therefore the size of the the fund.

Labour dismissed the Government's response, arguing that it would do nothing to dampen public disquiet over nuclear privatisation — and especially over the likely low sale price.

Margaret Beckett, Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, said: "Labour, like many nuclear industry experts, remains unconvinced by the Government's assertions that all the liabilities will follow the assets from which they arose. Clear facts and figures on this issue should be published now to dispel growing scepticism."

Mrs Beckett said that the Government had failed to answer the simple question of why the privatisation of the eight most modern nuclear power generating plants is expected to raise less than the cost of building one of them.

Nynex loss narrows

Nynex CableComms, the second largest cable company, reported a pre-tax loss of £23.4 million in the quarter to March 31, against a loss of £25.9 million in the same period a year ago, on turnover that almost doubled to £32.5 million.

The company said it found the results "highly encouraging" because of the strong overall revenue growth and because it was able to maintain its profit margins on the telephony service despite undercutting BT's prices by as much as 25 per cent.

Cable-TV margins were down because the company, in an effort to increase penetration rates, did not pass on price rises from programme suppliers. Shares held at 123p.

L&G equity move

Fund managers at Legal & General Investment Management said yesterday they had reduced their exposure to UK equities, preferring to increase cash holdings, after the FT-SE 100 index peaked above 3,850 two weeks ago. They said they expected the index to bounce back from its current weakness to 4,000 in coming weeks, but would use this strength to further reduce exposure.

"Although we are happy to remain modestly overweight, we plan to fully neutralise when the market reaches around 4,000," said David Shaw, strategy director.

Geoffrey Barnett

Geoffrey Barnett, former chief operating officer at Barings, has been completely exonerated by the Securities and Futures Authority and no action will be taken against him (report, yesterday).

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	1.96	1.82
Austria Sch	17.23	15.73
Belgium Fr	50.38	46.09
Canada $	2.170	2.010
Cyprus CypE	0.753	0.700
Denmark Kr	9.51	8.71
Finland Mrk	7.80	7.15
France Fr	8.21	7.56
Germany Dm	2.46	2.25
Greece Dr	384.00	359.00
Hong Kong $	12.33	11.33
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.3300	4.8800
Italy Lira	2464.00	2308.00
Japan Yen	173.30	157.30
Malta	0.597	0.542
Netherlds Gld	2.730	2.509
New Zealand $	2.36	2.14
Norway Kr	10.52	9.72
Portugal Esc	248.00	229.50
S Africa Rd	7.10	6.30
Spain Pta	199.00	186.00
Sweden Kr	10.94	10.14
Switzerland Fr	2.01	1.83
Turkey Lira	119164.	111164.
USA $	1.608	1.478

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. *Rates as at close of trading yesterday.*

Business confidence has dipped, says CBI

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BUSINESS confidence is down in most regions of Britain, the Confederation of British Industry said yesterday — while engineering employers said that economic recovery would be a "long and slow process".

The latest state-of-industry surveys from British business confirmed the generally gloomy outlook for UK manufacturing, though other industrial evidence suggests that the service sector is performing much better. The CBI will tomorrow publish new figures on high street sales.

In its latest regional industrial trends survey, the CBI said that confidence fell in all but two areas of Britain — the South East and the North West — with some very large falls in other areas, including a net balance of a third of all companies surveyed in the North saying confidence is now worse and 31 per cent in the South West.

Manufacturing orders fell sharply in six regions in the four months to April, the CBI said, with companies in Wales, Yorkshire and Humberside showing the greatest fall in orders. Areas where export orders are rising, including Scotland and the East Midlands, saw rises in orders overall.

While firms in eight regions, led by the South East, North West and East Midlands, expect orders to increase over the next four months, CBI analysts acknowledge that recent surveys have shown that expectations have not been met. The survey, carried out by the CBI with Business Strategies, the regional consultants, and covering more than 1,200 companies, showed that manufacturing employment is expected to fall in six regions, and is flat in four others, with only marginal growth in Northern Ireland.

The findings on jobs confirm the scepticism about the Government's own figures for manufacturing employment expressed recently in a leaked letter by Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade.

CBI leaders said that the results showed that industry's costs and prices around the country were generally well under control. Investment in the Midlands and Wales is expected to grow the fastest in the UK, while in all but four areas of Britain a net majority of firms said they were working below capacity.

Recovery will be long and slow, the EEF engineering employers, said. In its latest economic trends, the EEF said that total engineering output is set to grow by almost 3 per cent over the next year.

Graham Mackenzie, EEF director-general, said "The engineering industry continues to shrug off the high street, and export-based growth continues in this key sector of the UK economy." Richard Holt, a CBI director, said the survey results were consistent with slow economic growth.

He said the CBI is reviewing its UK GDP growth forecast and is likely to revise it downwards to about 2 to 2.5 per cent. However, he said businesses were optimistic for the second half of the year.

ROBIN MAYES



Peter Jarvis, left, and Sir Michael Angus, chairman

Brewer toasts revival in beer

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

WHITBREAD, the brewing and leisure company, yesterday signalled a revival in the brewing industry as it unveiled an 11 per cent increase in full-year pre-tax profits, excluding non-operating items, to £283 million.

Peter Jarvis, chief executive, said the beer market grew by 1.4 per cent last year, while the outlook for pubs continued to improve as growth in food sales outstripped a decline in on-site beer sales. He repeated a call for UK duty on beer to be brought into line with the rest of Europe to curb smuggling.

Overall turnover, for the 53 weeks to March 2, 1996, increased by 11 per cent to £2.75 billion.

Profits in the brewing division increased by 11 per cent to £45 million, boosted by a strong performance from the premium brand beers that make up 70 per cent of all Whitbread drink sales.

The inns division, which includes the Brewers Fayre and Hogshead chains, increased profits by 13.1 per cent to £130 million, helped by the hot summer and all-day Sunday opening. Whitbread's pub partnerships also increased profits by 1.9 per cent to £59.2 million from 200 fewer pubs than in the previous year.

The restaurants and leisure division, which includes the Beefeater and Pizza Hut chains as well as the hotel groups, increased profits by 34 per cent to £88.3 million. Whitbread did not rule out further acquisitions this year.

The total dividend was increased by 8 per cent to 21.2p. A final dividend of 16.1p is payable on July 19. The shares fell 8.5p to 757.5p due to profit-taking.

Pennington, page 27

French protest against Eurotunnel's creditors

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

MORE than 500 French Eurotunnel shareholders travelled to the cross-Channel terminal at Coquelles near Calais yesterday to demonstrate against the actions of the company's creditors.

Unlike their British counterparts, who have been vocal in their protests, yesterday's demonstration was the first time that French shareholders have taken public action. In the past British shareholders have expressed disappointment at what they saw as a slow response on the part of the French investors.

This display of Gallic inaction appears to now be at an end as the shareholders, bearing placards reading "Bankers are crooks" and "Euro-hoodlums", marched several miles yesterday. All have seen the value of their shares plummet and fear losing half of their capital to Eurotunnel's creditors. They are particularly angry that the French and British Governments have avoided Eurotunnel's problems.

"We have only our own resources to count on now. The authorities have washed their hands of the matter," said Christian Cambier, president of the largest French shareholders' pressure group, the Association pour l'Action Eurotunnel (AAE), which he created four years ago and which boasts 2,600 members. Also participating in the protest were members of the Association de defense des actionnaires d'Eurotunnel, a more recent, and reputedly more hardline, group.

According to Sophie L'Helias, the chosen representative of the two groups, the shareholders' objective is to obtain the maximum number of votes in order to influence the restructuring plan now in negotiation between the company and its creditors. They aim to achieve reimbursement by immediately taking half of the capital and obtaining the rest over the next four years from the company's earnings.

Before returning to Paris, the shareholders signed a petition calling on President Jacques Chirac "to intervene with the weight of his authority".

Big European staff agencies to merge

BY ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE two biggest temporary staff agencies in Europe are to merge, creating a £4 billion a year business they claim will leapfrog Manpower of the US into world leadership.

Adia of Switzerland, which owns Alfred Marks in Britain, has launched an agreed offer for Ecco, its larger French rival, in a move expected to trigger wider consolidation in the industry.

The combined group will be market leader in France, Spain, Canada, South America and South East Asia. Combined, the directors claim an 8 per cent share of a world market worth about £50 billion that is growing at around 15 per cent a year.

Although Manpower has revenues of $6.85 billion and enjoys a similar market share, Adia/Ecco says that on a like-for-like basis, adjusted for franchisees' income, it will have a larger turnover. The new group will have 2,400 branches, in 36 countries, and a workforce of 300,000.

Philippe Foriel-Destezet, Ecco's founder and chairman, has promised to accept the offer of 1.028 new Adia shares for each Ecco share in respect of his 46 per cent stake.

In a simultaneous restructuring, Ecco will buy in the 16 per cent minority holding in Ecco TT, its main French and Spanish operating company.

The merger will require approval from European competition authorities.

World of temping, page 29

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

GEC-Marconi picked for design venture

GEC-MARCONI, the defence arm of Britain's General Electric Company, has been chosen by Boeing to design the avionics for a next generation fighter plane to replace the British Aerospace Harrier and the McDonnell Douglas F16 Eagle. The Boeing/GEC team will design a new short take-off, vertical-landing jet in competition with McDonnell Douglas/British Aerospace and Lockheed Martin. The teams are competing for a $10 billion contract under the Anglo-American joint advanced strike technology programme. The prize will be direction of a project expected to supply up to 3,000 aircraft.

Meanwhile, Pratt & Whitney and General Electric, America's two leading jet engine makers, are joining forces to develop a new engine for Boeing's planned super-jumbo. The rivals said they would form a 50/50 joint venture to develop engine providing thrust of 72,000 lb to 84,000 lb. Rolls-Royce, the British aero-engine group, has developed a new engine, the Trent 700, which could power the planned jet.

Lucas rules out offer

LUCAS INDUSTRIES, the car components manufacturer discussing a link with Varity Corporation, yesterday ruled out the possibility of receiving an offer from its US suitor. The statement, prompted by pressure from the Takeover Panel, led to a 6½p fall in Lucas shares, closing at 227p. Reports of the possible tie-up between Lucas and Varity, a US components supplier, have prompted a wave of buying of Lucas shares. Lucas is nearly twice the size of Varity, which has sales last year of $2.4 billion.

Berkshire widens terms

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY INC, billionaire investor Warren Buffett's investment company, has increased for the fourth time the offering of its lower-priced Class B common stock. Mr Buffett is offering the B shares to try to thwart plans by investment firms to set up unit trusts that would invest in Berkshire A shares — the highest-priced stock on Wall Street. In an unusual filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Mr Buffett said the offering would be tailored so that buyers seeking quick profits "are almost certain to be disappointed".

Schering 16% ahead

SCHERING, the German pharmaceutical group, saw first-quarter profits grow by 16 per cent, to DM131 million, from DM113 million in 1995's first quarter. It attributed the rise to more favourable exchange rates. Group sales rose 5 per cent, to DM1.21 billion, from DM1.15 billion. Schering said growth in net profits for all 1996 is expected to be "double-digit", with group sales projected to rise about 9 per cent. First-quarter overseas sales rose 5.5 per cent, to DM1 billion, 84 per cent of group sales. Domestic sales rose 2.1 per cent, to DM191 million.

Part-timers 'lose leave'

ALMOST one in three part-timers receive no annual holiday from work, highlighting the "divide" with full-timers, Labour claimed yesterday. David Blunkett, Shadow Education and Employment spokesman, told a TUC conference that 1.7 million part-timers have no annual leave, while thousands of others get no more than ten days. Part-time workers are also a third less likely to receive training than people in full-time employment. The conference was part of the TUC's campaign to win minimum standards at work.

America's moderate pace

AMERICA'S economy was growing at a moderate pace in the last two months, with little sign of any inflationary pressures, according to a survey of regional business conditions by the Federal Reserve. The survey by the Fed's 12 regional banks showed all districts except New York were sharing in the expansion. "Price increases remained generally subdued and there were only scattered reports of wage pressures despite continued tight labor labour markets and somewhat stronger economic growth," the survey summary said.

Cadbury confident

CADBURY SCHWEPPES, the confectionery and soft drinks company, said that trading conditions so far this year have been "satisfactory". Dominic Cadbury, chairman, told shareholders at yesterday's annual meeting he was confident that 1996 would be another year of growth despite the short term impact of a £35 million provision associated with the restructuring of the soft drinks business in France. Mr Cadbury also said the company was still considering an additional American Depository Receipt offering.

EU growth forecast

THE European Union's economic growth rate this year will be "markedly less than 2 per cent, less than forecast", Yves-Thibault de Silguy, EU Finance Commissioner, said. In his annual economic report M de Silguy also said that the budget deficits of EU members now average 5 per cent of GDP, against the planned 4.7 per cent. The EU economic convergence criteria calls for members wanting to take part in the single currency to have a budget deficit of no more than 3 per cent of GDP.

One-2-One's new chief

MERCURY One-2-One, the mobile phone operator owned equally by Cable and Wireless and US West, the regional phone company, has hired Jan Peters as managing director. Ms Peters, 44, currently president of US West's wireless operations, will replace Richard Goswell next month when he becomes chief executive of C&W's operations in South-East Asia and the Pacific. She is the first female managing director appointed to one of Britain's four mobile phone operators.

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☐ Political perils of gas regulation ☐ Whitbread sets the pace in the pub ☐ Labour's meter maid on the attack

Blockage in the pipeline

☐ REGULATORS tend as a breed to be quiet male academics. Clare Spottiswoode at Ofgas sticks out from the bunch on three counts, being a woman and not by background an academic. She is also far from quiet.

This was the one, you will remember, who helpfully pointed out that her sole charge could easily go bust. She also favours the idea of combining all the various regulators under one umbrella organisation, run by one super-regulator. Ms Spottiswoode has not been shy in suggesting who she thinks this should be.

This display of ambition has not endeared her to her counterparts in other industries. Not to put too fine a point on it, several have seemed unwilling to share the same platform with her.

One of the weaknesses of the current regulatory system is that it places all the pressure on a single figure who can find himself, in the case of the unfortunate Stephen Littlechild at Offer, unknown one day and photographed and reviled in the tabloid press the next.

Another is that while the regulator has one chance to get it right, the regulated have two. A company unhappy with one of the periodic rulings on prices, for example, can send the case to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for a further judgment, which might be better or worse than the regulator's. They therefore have two throws of the dice to the latter's one, and normal game theory says this gives them the advantage.

Next Monday Ms Spottiswoode will put this theory to the test again. She is to rule on the price cap that controls 40 per cent of British Gas's revenues, those that derive from the TransCo business being demerged next year. Her ruling is expected to be draconian — 8 per cent price cuts in the first year for consumers. This would play well with ministers, who harbour a powerful dislike for British Gas. The company is, along with National Grid, another Whitehall pariah, blamed for bringing the privatisation programme into disrepute with all of last year's fat-cattery, and Cedric Brown's early bath has done little to lessen this dislike.

So a robust line from Ms Spottiswoode would not do her own political prospects any harm, with this or any future Government of whatever hue. It would clobber Gas's thousands of private investors, but they should have seen trouble ahead months ago. More significantly, it would leave British Gas little option but to look to the MMC for another throw of the dice.

Here lies the problem. Within the company, the reasons for going to the MMC so seem to have less to do with the substantive issues and more with the hope that its members will be so baffled by the complexities of the case that they will come down somewhere between the company's position and that of the regulator, in an instinctive compromise. But if her tough line is weakened, this would do untold damage to her position. Not an easy job, is it, Ms Spottiswoode?



Reflecting the blindingly obvious

☐ THOSE that can, do; those that can't go into marketing, a science that seems to involve the selling of the bleeding obvious to the entirely credulous. Take, as an example, the changing role of the traditional pub.

If a large number of your customers decide to trim the amount of ale poured down their throats on a Friday or a Saturday night, then as a beer producer and seller you have just two options. You can produce less of the stuff, or you can sell them something else.

The first has happened, the amount of beer produced falling by 17 per cent since 1979. The second is where the marketing geniuses come in. Why not, said some bright spark circa 1986, try to make our pubs more welcoming to families, and sell them food rather than hard liquor?

The fruits of this blindingly obvious insight are on offer from Whitbread, which kicked off the brewers' reporting season. The group has concentrated on producing brands that command premium prices, aided by the probably serendipitous purchase of Boddingtons, far and away the country's most successful take-home ale. At the same time, Whitbread is furthest down the line of any brewer in creating an estate of pubs that fits in with what its customers want.

This success is more of a reflection on its rivals' failures, however. It explains why, when Whitbread's total share of the ale market is static, the share of brands like Stella Artois, Boddingtons and Murphy's stout has grown. It also explains why the turnover of the average Whitbread outlet is running 7 per cent ahead of the competition.

It explains, further, why Whitbread shares already sell on 15.5 times' this year's earnings, based on upgraded figures from NatWest Securities, which does not offer much upside for them. But Whitbread's ability to reinvent itself as a successful retailer and niche brewer throws the emphasis on failings elsewhere in the sector — namely Bass's rather less impressive retail estate and Allied Domecq's inability to extricate itself from the Carlsberg-Tetley brewing joint venture. The market is looking for news on the latter, at least, very soon.

Disconnected from reality

☐ GENERATIONS of bedsit students cursed when they ran out of change for the gas meter. Little did they realise, however, that they were actually victims of society — operating in this case via the evil state gas monopoly. Nor did the evil monopolies.

Pre-payment meters have been introduced by the more socially sensitive electricity and water companies over the past decade to make sure that poor people are not deprived of essential services if they cannot pay the hefty bills delivered by utilities periodically before and after privatisation.

Information technology has turned an old-fashioned and expensive method of paying into a civilised way to avoid potentially harmful disconnections. Offers of pre-payment meters to defaulters, bad risks and the uncreditworthy also separate "can't pay" sheep from "won't pay" goats. Or so it seemed. Labour MPs put a rather different gloss on it in the Commons yesterday.

Pre-payment water meters would be outlawed under a Labour government, according to Joan Ruddock, new Labour's ideologically challenged environment mouthpiece. Pre-payment meters were a sneaky "disconnection by the back door", avoiding an expensive court case and denying human rights.

A Liberal Democrat — who else — called for some undefinable middle way between the "black and white solution" of full service or full disconnection. Clearly, this is the philosophical gap new Labour plans to fill.

Gone, not forgotten

☐ FAST-MOVING business, building, Tarmac's annual report, out yesterday, contains one of those grim photocalls of directors engaged in self-conscious chatter. They include one Barry Myers, who unfortunately parted company with the rest a couple of weeks ago after what was described as a personality clash. A po-faced Tarmac spokesman says it was a "difficult decision" whether or not to pulp the accounts, but the company's green credentials could not countenance the pointless sacrifice of so many trees.

Tate & Lyle forecasts cut after warning

BY PAUL DURMAN

RISING corn prices and increased competition have dealt a heavier than expected blow to Tate & Lyle, the sugar and sweeteners company.

Sir Neil Shaw, chairman, gave warning that this year's profits will be slightly lower than expected at the time of the last annual meeting.

This prompted a wave of downgrades by analysts. Sally Jones, of Credit Lyonnais Laing, has cut her profit forecast for this year from £308 million to £295 million. Tate & Lyle's shares lost 14p to end the day at 462p.

Yesterday's interim figures, for the period to March 31, show a 10.1 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, to £168.2 million. Earnings per share were 9 per cent ahead, at 23p.

However, Sir Neil said that profits from Staley, the important US business that makes sweeteners from corn, were "trending sharply lower". Profits in the six months from the US sweeteners and starch business fell from £91.4 million to £78.7 million.

Heavy demand for corn from China and Russia and low stocks have caused the price to almost double to $4.75 a bushel. Increased competition has made it difficult for Staley to pass on the price increases to drink producers and other customers.

Tate & Lyle enjoyed higher profits from its European business, which made £77.8 million (£59.4 million). Results from both the sugar and cereal operations improved. Tate & Lyle is increasingly using wheat as a raw material: it has converted its London plant, and is building a wheat starch plant in France.

The company's developing operations in the rest of the world also took a big step forward, making £19 million.

Tate & Lyle continues to invest heavily, spending £125 million in the first half and planning to spend more in the second. As well as cost-cutting at Staley and Tate & Lyle Sugars, it has invested in Vietnam, Thailand and India.

The poor short-term outlook was highlighted by a modes' per cent rise in the interim dividend, to 5.3p a share.

Tate & Lyle is cutting the cost of its financing by redeeming a £190.5 million bond issue made in 1988. The debt is to be rolled over into cheaper bonds.

Tempus, page 28

Profits pull ahead at News Int

BY ERIC REGULY

NEWSPAPER circulation and cover price increases lifted the third-quarter profits of News International, owner of *The Times*. The gains, however, were not enough to offset lower earnings from Fox Broadcasting and Star TV.

The News Corporation's operating profits before abnormal items fell 3 per cent to $211 million on revenue of $2.3 billion, up 7 per cent. This left the operating profit for the nine-month period at $703 million, down 2 per cent, on revenue of $7.3 billion, up 10 per cent.

The company said the results reflected higher licence fees and promotional costs at Fox Broadcasting and greater programming expenses and satellite transponder costs at Star TV in Asia.

At its annual meeting in October, News Corp said it expected Star to lose up to $80 million in the current financial year. The TV division's overall operating profits fell from $85 million to $59 million in the quarter. After abnormal items, News Corp reported a profit of $59 million against $188 million.

Broken Arrow and *Braveheart* helped to lift the filmed entertainment division's operating profits 31 per cent to $47 million. The newspaper division, supported by an 8 per cent gain from the four British papers, reported a 3.5 per cent gain in operating profits to $88 million.

OFC wins time to fight order

THE High Court yesterday adjourned a bid by the Department of Trade and Industry to wind up the troubled Ostrich Farming Corporation (OFC), which raised millions of pounds from private investors.

The adjournment means a delay of at least one month, raising the question of how the upkeep of more than 3,000 birds held in Belgium will be funded. The money is expected to run out in the next few days.

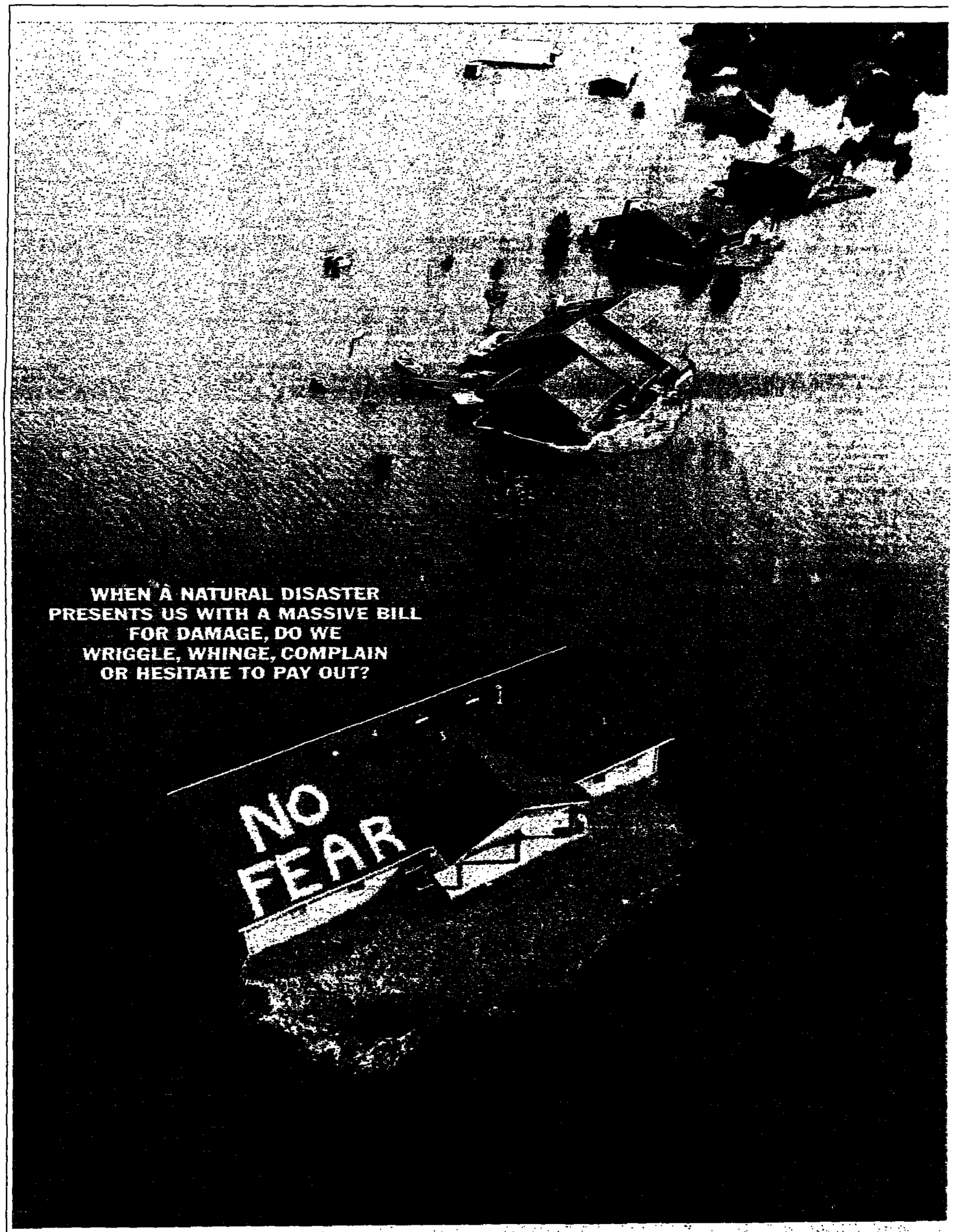
Michael Pugh, the Official Receiver who is acting as provisional liquidator, will have to apply to the courts for direction. It is likely that he will have to dip into funds to pay for their upkeep.

The Nottingham company, which is also the subject of a Serious Fraud Office investigation, is contesting the DTI's winding up order.

The High Court Registrar adjourned the case to a judge in the Chancery Division and gave OFC 21 days to file evidence. The DTI will then have 14 days to reply. The action should be heard before August..

Miss Raquel Agnello, for OFC, said the company needed time to consider a report to be filed by Mr Pugh.

The DTI petition alleges that investors' money was siphoned off through disadvantageous contracts with other companies and that the company is partly under the control of a person alleged not fit to be a director of a company.



Last year when heavy snow led to floods in Pennsylvania, we spent £8.5 million drying home-owners' eyes. When hailstones the size of cricket balls caught Cologne off guard, we fielded £2.5 million to repair the damage. Backed by £5 billion of assets, at work in 50 countries we possess the worldly financial strength to look after the interests of the five million people around the world who have policies with us. And that commitment is one thing we'll never make heavy weather of.

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STOCK MARKET | MICHAEL CLARK

Share prices feel effects of worries in New York

SHARE prices on the London stock market held above the 3,700 level, but it was a close run thing.

A further delay in settling the US Budget and worries that the Fed may need to raise interest rates in order to tighten monetary policy sent the Dow tumbling almost 80 points during the first hour of trading on Wall Street. It also helped to wipe out an early rise in London where the FT-SE 100 index finished 15.7 down at its low point of 3,707.3.

Turnover was again thin with 713 million shares traded. *There was little evidence of* selling, but with market-makers holding stock on their books, further falls are on the cards in the short-term. Hopes of a another cut in base rates to coincide with the monthly meeting between Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, proved wide of the mark.

There was still plenty of speculative activity to maintain interest. **Lucas Industries** dropped 6½p to 227p in heavy trading after the company was prompted by the Takeover Panel to deny it was in bid talks with Varity Corporation. But speculators still hope the talks will be enough to flush out another bidder.

Pearson finished rose 14p to 702p on persistent muttering about a bid. **Smith & Nephew** stood out with an uncharacteristic rise of 6½p to 201¾p amid suggestions that Eli Lilly, the US healthcare group, had been taking a close look. Only last week S&N excited the market with news of a joint venture to develop skin for grafting. Brokers say it could be a big earner for the group.

J Sainsbury bounced back from its first profits setback in 22 years with a rise of 15p at 372p, after briefly touching 355p. It seems the decline at the pre-tax level from £809 million to £712 million was offset by encouraging remarks about dividend policy and the *news that the group wants* approval to buy-back its own shares.

Brokers were also encouraged by Sainsbury's plan to introduce a loyalty card in an attempt to repeat the success of a similar scheme introduced by its arch-rival Tesco. Sainsbury is also pulling out the stops to integrate its recently acquired Texas DIY chain with Homebase. Texas made losses of £10.4 million.



Sir Neil Shaw, right, and Larry Pillard saw Tate & Lyle ease

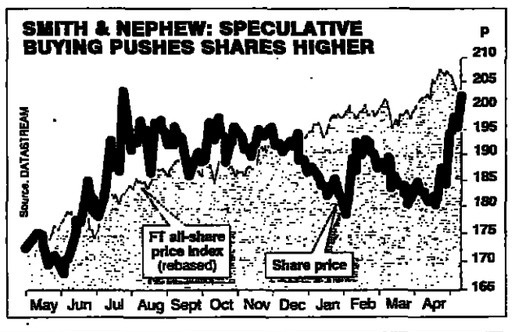
Tesco, which now has the biggest market share, finished 5p better at 272p. **Argyll** rose 8½p to 336½p as Kleinwort Benson, the broker, upgraded its recommendation from a hold to a buy.

Full-year figures from **Whitbread** were broadly in line with expectations showing pre-tax profits up from £255 million to £283 million.

Vodafone, the mobile telephone operator, fell 8p to 247p in late trading on turnover of almost eight million shares. Talk that UBS had come out with a "sell" recommendation proved to be wide of the mark after the broker yesterday emerged as lead manager to a £250 million Eurobond issued by Vodafone.

Peter Jarvis, chairman, said the group was now on the lookout for suitable acquisitons to help underpin profits with capital expenditure set to top £400 million. Even so, the shares ended 8p easier at 738p.

A warning from **Tate & Lyle** that profits for the full year would fall short of the £311 million indicated at the time of January's profits warning left



13½p to 492½p after some bland comments about current trading. Dominic Cadbury, chairman, told shareholders that underlying trading had been satisfactory. The company was still considering the possibility of a US offering of its shares following their recent listing in the form of American Depository Receipts.

CRH, the Irish building products group, firmed 2p to 596p after promising shareholders another year of progress and further acquisitions.

Royal Bank of Scotland managed to come up with the goods despite the expected downturn at its Direct Line telephone insurance subsidiary. A drop in bad debt provisions enabled group profits to grow from £270 million to £310 million. The shares responded with a rise of 5p to 527p.

Gus Carter, the Sunderland bookmaker, jumped 11p to 93p *matching terms of a proposed* agreed bid from **Stanley Leisure**, 1p easier at 474p. The offer values Gus Carter at £14.7 million and is on the basis of 20 new Stanley shares for every 102 Carter.

There were no frills attached to first time trading on the Alternative Investment Market in shares of **La Senza**. Placed at 150p, shares in the hoisery retailer which has 22 shops, opened at 158p before settling at 156p where the company has a £50 million price tag. It has raised £19 million from the floatation and wants to use the proceeds to open a further 152 outlets.

First-time trading in **Reflec** got off to a positive start on AIM with the shares opening at 46p compared with the 40p they were originally placed at by Peel Hunt, the broker. They later settled at 48p, a premium of 8p, valuing the group, which produces luminescent paint for use with reflective clothing, at just over £3 million.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** London responded warmly to a resilient performance by US Treasury bonds with gains extending to more than £1¼ at the longer end. After the disappointing response to the three year auction on Tuesday, brokers were looking for a better outcome to last night's ten-year auction.

In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt climbed £$^{17}/_{32}$ to close at £$105^{9}/_{32}$ as a turnover grew to 36,000 contracts. In longs Treasury 8 per cent 2015 finished £$^{17}/_{32}$ better at £$96^{7}/_{32}$, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 rose £$^{3}/_{16}$ to £$101^{13}/_{16}$.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Shares remained lower at midday as higher bond yields rattled equity markets for the fifth consecutive day. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 56.36 points at 5,364.59.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones ..... 5364.59 (-56.36)
S&P Composite ..... 631.32 (-6.94)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average ..... 21728.60 (+233.32)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng ..... 10617.32 (-84.85)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index ..... 551.56 (-8.03)

Sydney:
AO ..... 2298.5 (-9.8)

Frankfurt:
DAX ..... 2472.64 (-6.89)

Singapore:
Straits ..... 2371.83 (-24.33)

Brussels:
General ..... 9030.23 (-36.58)

Paris:
CAC-40 ..... Closed

Zurich:
SKA Gen ..... 773.40 (-7.40)

London:

FT 30	2772.0 (-24.4)
FT 100	3707.3 (-15.7)
FT-SE Mid 250	4904.4 (-21.1)
FT-SE-A 350	1863.8 (-8.2)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1664.88 (-11.37)
FT A All-Share	1870.23 (-7.68)
FT Non Financials	1995.63 (-7.02)
FT Fixed Interest	111.50 (+0.02)
FT Govt Secs	91.85 (+0.26)
Bargains	32572
SEAQ Volume	774.3m
USM (Datastrm)	215.39 (+1.10)
US$	1.5162 (+0.0048)
German Mark	2.3019 (+0.0026)
Exchange Index	84.1 (+0.2)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

E:ECU	1.3077
E:SDR	1.0406
RPI	151.5 Mar (2.7%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	150.9 Mar (2.9%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

AIM Distribution	94	...
Active Imaging	120	...
Biocompatibles Uts	130	...
Cairngorm BS IT Ut	92.5	...
Cairngorm Unit Wts	22.5	...
Cap for Co's VCT (100)	95	...
Cardcast (85)	68	– 5
FNR	39	...
Harvey Nichols (270)	315	+ 7
La Senza	156	...
MSB International	240	– 4
Millnm & Cop (278)	319	...
Perp Inc & Gth Wts	19	...
Phytopharm (175)	178	...
Reflec	48	...
Romtec	76	...
Singer & Frd AIM Wts	11	...
Singer & Fried AIM	98	...
Sira Bus Svs Wts	1½	...
Sira Business Svs	4	...
Stentor	93	...
Templeton C&E Euro	26	...
Tradepoint Finel	185	...
Waterfall (45)	52	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Benson Group n/p (40)	4	– 1
Cap Reg 675% ULS n/p	1¼	– ¼
Indl Control n/p (90)	24	...
Knox D'Arcy n/p	¼	– ¼
On Demand n/p (180)	5	...
Queensbrgh n/p (28)	2	+ ½
Tottenham Hot n/p	90	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

JD Wetherspoon	955p (+60p)
A Young	613p (+33p)
Avon Rubber	626p (+28p)
J Sainbury	372p (+15p)
Chiroscience	520p (+20p)
Darling Kind	641p (+12p)

FALLS:

H Ramsdens	383p (-54p)
London Clubs	508p (-28p)
Bluebird Toys	221p (-11p)
Telspec	755p (-33p)
Micro Focus	883p (-37p)
Cortecs	382p (-15p)
Dixons Gp	482p (-10p)

Closing Prices Page 32

TEMPUS

U-turn in the aisles

DAVID SAINSBURY yesterday conducted one of the greatest U-turns in recent corporate history. Having ridiculed Tesco's launch of a loyalty card last year, he has now admitted it's *not such a daft idea after all.* As a result Sainsbury will be launching its own "electronic green shield stamp" scheme shortly.

The supermarket group realises that being one of the last into the market means it has to do more than just pad along in the footsteps of its predecessors. But what twists and novelties the Sainsbury card will have is being kept *closely under wraps by management.*

The group's tardiness in responding to the launch of Tesco's Clubcard will not be repeated when it comes to credit cards, however. Both Tesco and Safeway have already hinted they plan to move into this arena and yesterday Sainsbury joined them.

The long-awaited announcement of the impending loyalty card launch should help lift the group's flagging sales and restore its market share. According to AGB figures for the four weeks to mid April, Sainsbury's share was 20.3 per cent, down from 21 per cent last time, while Tesco's climbed from 21.9 per cent to 22.6 per cent.

Sainsbury claims that the slide has been stopped as a result of improved pricing and bolstering customer service levels. However, as Mr Sainsbury admits, there is plenty more still to be done. Half the battle has been won in recognising action is needed, the outcome depends on how aggresive Sainsbury's new management team are prepared to be. But even given the benefits of extra, and strong, legs of Homebase and Shaws, the US food retailer, recovery will not be short-term.

Royal Bank

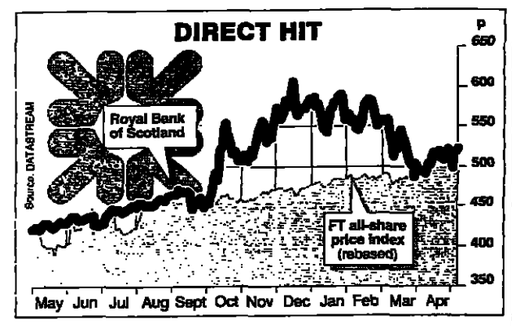
NOT long ago Direct Line was the Royal Bank of Scotland's favourite subsidiary. Direct Line could do no wrong and turned in sparkling profits while its rivals struggled to maintain market share.

What a difference six months makes. Direct Line yesterday unveiled profits down £40 million, which *its chairman Peter Wood* blamed on bad weather and fierce competition in the motor market.

By contrast, a massive overhaul of the bank's branches, which had appeared to be a rather cosmetic exercise, seems to be paying off. Costs have been reduced and the bank is expanding its range of personal financial services to head off competition from ambitious building societies.

It is a bit rich of Direct Line to complain about competition, since it grew to become the largest private motor insurer in the UK through undercutting rivals. Scores of small companies followed its example. Consolidation looks inevitable, with smaller players retiring hurt or being taken over.

RBS shares have been rising on speculation that the bank might be a takeover target for the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation again. However, with insurance premiums likely to rise slightly this year, and tight control on banking and insurance costs, there are now more fundamental reasons for the shares to move upwards.



Tate & Lyle

COSSETED by the Common Agricultural Programme, it is sometimes easy for European consumers to forget about the volatility in world food prices. Sir Neil Shaw, chairman of Tate & Lyle, was keen to remind the City of a few realities yesterday as his sugar and sweeteners group owned up to some disappointing results.

A near-doubling in the price of corn has dealt a harsh blow to Staley, the US corn syrup business that has become the most important contributor to Tate & Lyle's profits.

Staley's longer term prospects remain strong, but Tate & Lyle reckons it will be 18 months or so before equilibrium returns to the corn market. Unfortunately, that will place a check on the growth in dividends. The heavy investment the group has made in developing markets in Eastern Europe and the Far East is starting to yield significant profits, but this contribution is still too small to make up the shortfall from Staley. The 6 per cent rise in the interim payment indicates the short-term potential. Tate & Lyle remains a good long-term bet. But at 462p, down 14p yesterday, the shares offer little immediate excitement.

Zeneca

ZENECA continues to clean up its act and has just unloaded its loss-making textile dyes business. But the pharmaceuticals group shows little sign of taking bolder steps such as merging with a rival company or making a strategic acquisition. The company has argued that it is doing just fine on its own, thank you very much, and points to its lofty share price as evidence. Zeneca's price-earnings ratio of 22 is at the top end of the scale, although it includes some takeover speculation. Glaxo Wellcome's is a mere 15 and SmithKline Beecham's is 18. Nonetheless, Zeneca might want to reconsider its strategy of guarding its independence.

True, it has no glaring weakness but finding the right partner could enhance shareholder value by broadening its product portfolio, strengthening its research and development budget and allowing it to trim overhead costs. Merging through a share swap that creates no debt or goodwill is the way to go. The combined market value of Pharmacia and Upjohn soared when they merged using the same formula. The same thing happened to Ciba and Sandoz when they came together.

Zeneca's main obstacle, of course, is its own success. Any company with a much lower price-earnings ratio would be loathe to merge with Zeneca for fear of being dominated by it. As long as Zeneca's shares remain as high as they are, there's a good chance that the company will continue as it is.

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

May	1073-1070	Jul	1054-1053
Jul	1110-1109	Sep	unq
Sep	1138-1127	Dec	...
Dec	1038-1034	Mar	...
Mar	1031-1030		
May	1043-1042	Volume: 7920	

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

May	1966-1960	Jan	1913-1911
Jul	1953-1951	Mar	1880-1877
Sep	1945-1943	May	1865-1845
Nov	1940-1937	Volume: 2808	

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Mar	328.0-26.0
Spot: 383.5		May	326.2-25.5
Aug	370.5-69.2	Aug	327.9-27.0
Oct	337.0-34.2	Oct	317.4-16.5
Dec	329.0-26.0	Volume: 308	

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on May 7

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	110.43	187.67	99.50
(+/-)	+2.48	+3.21	-3.08
Eng/Wales:	110.39	182.71	100.11
(+/-)	+2.04	+6.98	-2.22
(%)	+16.0	+1.0	-25.0
Scotland:	111.01	164.62	98.02
(+/-)	-4.32	+8.03	-5.29
(%)	+14.0	+1.0	+9.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	20.00	(n/c)
Brent 15 day (Jun)	19.35	-0.10
Brent 15 day (Jul)	18.40	(n/c)
W Texas Intermediate (Jun)	21.05	-0.15
W Texas Intermediate (Jul)	20.10	(n/c)

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	233 (n/c)	235 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	174 (+5)	176 (+5)
3.5 Fuel Oil	107 (+1)	109 (+1)
Naphtha	190 (-2)	193 (-2)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

May	167.00-67.25	Aug	162.00-62.25
Jun	165.00-65.75	Sep	163.25-62.75
Jul	163.25-63.50	Vol: 13835	

BRENT (6.00pm)

Jun	19.26-19.28	Sep	17.60 BID
Jul	18.31-18.35	Oct	17.40 BID
Aug	17.80-17.83	Vol: 31034	

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
May	129.90	May	116.50
Jul	132.00	Sep	110.75
Sep	116.55	Nov	112.00
Nov	118.15	Jan	113.25
Jan	119.90	mar	115.25
Volume: 510		Volume: 23	

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Apr	130.0	128.5
May	unq	–
Jun	–	–
Volume: 40		

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Clf p/k)

May 101.50-102.00

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $80/pt)

	High	Low	Close
May 96	1405	1400	1400
Jun 96	1310	1305	1306
Jul 96	1274	1270	1270
Oct 96	1355	1350	1350
Vol: 187 lots		Open interest: 4396	
70s: 71		Index 1452 -5	

(Official) (Volume prev day)

Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	
Lead ($/tonne)	
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	
Tin ($/tonne)	
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	
Nickel ($/tonne)	

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

	Cash:	3mths:	Vol:
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2830.0-2833.0	2847.0-2849.0	162075
Lead ($/tonne)	866.00-867.00	847.00-847.50	278150
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1055.0-1056.0	1077.5-1078.0	243200
Tin ($/tonne)	6605.0-6610.0	6600.0-6605.0	1505
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1634.0-1634.5	1665.0-1666.0	116425
Nickel ($/tonne)	8385.0-8390.0	8470.0-8475.0	94272

Rudolf Wolff

LIFFE OPTIONS

Series	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Calls Jan	Puts Jul	Puts Oct	Puts Jan
Allid Dom	460	37½	45½	50½	7	11½	19
(*496)	500	11½	24½	29½	34	30	39
Argyll	330	16½	21½	29	13	17½	21½
(*338)	360	4½	11	18	33	36	39
ASDA	110	7½	10	12½	3½	½	2
(*113½)	120	3	5½	8	9	10½	12
Bnfits	600	28	39½	47½	14½	22	27½
(*617½)	650	6½	17	25	47	52	55½
Br Airways	500	31½	41	49	11	17	22½
(*522)	550	8	18	26	40½	45	49
BP	550	26	35½	43½	11½	21	25½
(*562½)	600	6	14	21	48	53	57½
Br Steel	180	14½	17	20½	6	8½	12
(*191½)	200	4	7½	11½	18	20	23
C & W	460	39	49	50	12½	22	29
(*475½)	500	11½	22	31½	36	44	50½
CU	600	27	36	47½	17	30	32½
(*602½)	650	9½	16	24½	49½	61½	63
ICI	800	51	64	81½	15½	26	32½
(*836½)	900	23½	38	55	81	91	96½
Kingfishr	590	36	49	63½	10½	18	23½
(*571)	600	11	24	38½	36½	43½	48½
Land Sec	650	19½	26	35	21½	25	31
(*657½)	700	1	8½	17½	63	63	66½
M & S	430	11½	19½	26	13½	18½	22
(*425½)	460	2	8	11½	45½	49	49
Nat West	600	42½	51	64	9½	22	27½
(*628)	650	16½	27	39½	33½	48	53½
Sainsbury	360	16	25	30½	9	13	17½
(*373½)	380	4½	11½	16½	24	28½	34
Shell	850	25	39	48	17	28½	32½
(*858)	900	6½	17	26	50	59½	61½
Smkl Bch	280	13½	19½	—	1½	2½	—
(*294½)	300	3	10½	—	4½	6½	—
Storebrke	330	13½	22½	—	13	18	—
(*331½)	360	3	10½	—	33	36½	—
Trafalgar	50	1	3½	—	0	0½	—
(*50)	60	0	0	—	9½	9½	—
Unilever	1200	58½	87½	94	10½	20½	35
(*1234)	1250	29	52	69½	53½	61½	69½
Zeneca	1380	70	102	110	31½	54	62
(*1373)	1400	43½	75	106½	56	77	96

Series	May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Grnal Mct	420	11½	36½	35½	6½	15½	20½
(*429)	460	1	10½	19½	31	40	43½
Ladbroke	190	12	23	25	1	5½	8½
(*190½)	200	2	13	15½	10½	19½	22½
Utd Biscs	230	11½	21½	25½	39	41	49½
(*230½)	240	1	11	15½	10	16½	20½

Series	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Calls Jan	Puts Jul	Puts Oct	Puts Jan
BAA	500	39½	49	54½	5	10	14
(*534½)	550	10	19½	27	27½	33	37
Thames W	550	30½	37½	42½	14½	20	24
(*573½)	600	7	15	21	47½	50½	56

Series	May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
BAT Ind	460	34	47½	54½	0	12	16½
(*493½)	500	4	23½	32	10½	30	35
BTR	300	12½	22	25½	1	4	8
(*312)	330	0	6½	10½	18½	20	25
Br Aero	650	16	50	66	6½	27	39½
(*650)	900	1	26½	42½	40½	54½	65
Br Telcm	330	8	19	23½	2	15	19
(*336)	360	0	6½	11	25	36½	39
Cadbury	460	34½	50½	58	0	7	13
(*498)	500	6	26½	35	9½	22½	29½
Guinness	460	21½	37½	43½	0½	9	15
(*460½)	500	1	15½	22½	30	38	34½
GEC	330	22½	30	33½	0	2½	11
(*352)	360	1½	12	18	9	22½	26
Hanson	180	10½	19	21	0	3	6
(*184½)	200	1	7	10	15½	17½	16
LASMO	180	9	17½	20½	1½	6½	8½
(*180)	200	1	8	14	13	15½	19
Lucas	220	11½	24	26½	3	11	17
(*227½)	260	5	14½	17	14	21	26
Pilkington	191	16½	19½	—	0	4½	—
(*207)	210	2	9	—	4½	13	—
Prudential	420	20	35½	41½	1	9½	15½
(*438)	460	6½	14½	21½	21½	29	35½
Redland	300	16½	26½	32	1	7½	11½
(*307½)	320	1½	10½	16½	13½	25	31
R-Royce	230	4	15½	20½	3	11	15
(*221)	240	0	7	12	19	23	26½
Tesco	260	13½	24	29	1	6	10½
(*273)	280	1	12½	17½	8½	14½	20
Vodafone	240	9	19½	26½	2	10½	15½
(*247½)	260	0½	10½	13	13½	21½	26
Williams	300	27½	34	37	0	3	7½
(*327)	330	9	13½	17½	5	12	16½

FT-SE INDEX (*3712)

Calls	3600	3650	3700	3750	3800	3850
Mar	112	68	34	11½	2	1
Jun	135	98	68	43	24	12
Jul	154	122	92	66	45	31
Aug	174	142	110	85	61	44
Dec	244	—	183	—	136	—
Puts						
May	5	11	26½	56	101	151
Jun	25	39	64	89	118	159
Jul	42	57	77	102	132½	166
Aug	56	73	92	117	145	180
Dec	101	—	139	—	191	—

Series	Jun	Sep	Dec	Jun	Sep	Dec
Abbv Nat	500	43	54½	68½	2	11½	17
(*504)	550	12½	25	36	49	53	59
Amstrad	180	19	25	29½	3	7	9½
(*198)	200	7	14½	19	11½	15½	19
Barclays	700	56½	66½	79½	3	14	20
(*748)	750	21	34½	50½	19	34	41
Blue Circ	360	19	29½	35½	8	15	20
(*369)	340	5	14½	21½	21	31½	36½
Br Gas	230	19½	25	31	1½	4	8
(*237)	250	7½	15	18½	13½	18	21
Diloons	460	30½	40	51½	5	16½	20½
(*482)	500	9	20½	31	25	37	40½
Forte	340	10	24	—	0	1	—
(*372)	370	3	14	—	3	7½	—
Tarmac	130	9½	13½	17	4	7	10
(*134)	130	3½	8½	11	9	12	15½
Hillsdown	160	21	25	27	0	2½	4
(*170)	190	7	11½	14	5	9½	11½
Lonrho	190	14	17½	22	1½	6	7½
(*190)	200	5½	7½	12	11	15½	17
Sears	90	5½	9½	10½	1	2½	4½
(*97)	100	1	4½	6	6½	8	9½
Thorn	1700	94	129	157	24	58	71½
(*1701)	1800	40½	73½	107	65	108½	121½
Tomkins	260	10½	19½	26½	0	13½	16
(*261)	280	3	8	12	18½	20½	24
Lloyds TSB	290	21	—	—	3½	—	—
(*307)	320	6	—	—	15	—	—

Series	Jul	Oct	Jan	Jul	Oct	Jan
Glaxo W	750	44½	62	71	14	30	36½
(*773)	800	20	36	49½	38½	57	63
HSBC	950	94	122	138	149	157½	155
(*963)	990	59½	95	74½	105	130	99
Reuter	700	66½	79	95	16½	23½	29½
(*746)	750	35½	49	69½	28½	44½	49

Series	Jul	Oct	Jan	Jul	Oct	Jan
Rental Inv	420	20½	29½	39½	17½	25½	30
(*422½)	460	6	14½	23	45	49½	53½

Series	Jun	Jul	Oct	Jan
Fisons	260	9	—	—	0½	—	—
(*259)	280	0	—	—	15	—	—

Series	May		May	
Eastm Gp	950	26½	—	—	0½	—	—
(*954)	1000	0½	—	—	25	—	—

Series	Jun	Sep	Dec	Jun	Sep	Dec
Natl Pwr	500	41½	60	48½	4½	20	29½
(*554)	550	11½	30	23	22½	48	53½
Scot Pwr	360	16½	24	25½	9	15½	17
(*396)	390	5	12	15½	29	34	35½

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100	Jun 96	3729.0	3737.0	3700.0	3709.0	12306
Previous open interest: 63799	Sep 96	3738.0	3747.0	3721.0	3724.0	790
FT-SE 250	Jun 96				4525.0	0
Previous open interest: 4141	Sep 96					0
Three Month Sterling	Jun 96	94.04	94.06	93.97	94.00	22572
Previous open interest: 372258	Sep 96	93.90	93.92	93.87	93.89	11037
	Dec 96	93.54	93.60	93.53	93.56	14148
Three Month Euro Yen	Sep 96	98.77	98.78	98.77	98.78	225
	Dec 96	98.44	98.44	98.44	98.44	393
Three Mth Euro DM	Jun 96	96.78	96.82	96.78	96.80	20289
Previous open interest: 111845	Sep 96	96.81	96.85	96.80	96.84	28506
Long Gilt	Jun 96	104.19	105.08	104.19	105.04	36498
Previous open interest: 122903	Sep 96	103.26	104.00	103.24	104.01	279
Japanese Govmt Bond	Jun 96	117.77	117.84	117.74	117.84	1895
	Sep 96	116.61	116.65	116.59	116.67	391
German Gov Bd Bund	Jun 96	95.73	96.13	95.65	96.03	140588
Previous open interest: 141788	Sep 96	94.83	95.14	94.83	95.10	1250
Three month ECU	Jun 96	95.70	95.79	95.75	95.75	775
Previous open interest: 25499	Sep 96	95.81	95.81	95.77	95.78	274
Euro Swiss Franc	Jun 96	98.08	98.14	98.08	98.13	3409
Previous open interest: 59634	Sep 96	97.99	98.08	97.99	98.07	4640
Italian Govmt Bond	Jun 96	113.75	114.28	113.69	113.81	40738
Previous open interest: 63356	Sep 96	113.18	113.50	113.11	113.19	149

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance Hse 6½

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6½ Low 5½ Week fixed: 6½

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 5½; 3 mth 5⅝. Sell: 2 mth 5¼; 3 mth: 5⅜.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	5⅜-5⅛	5⅜-5⅛	5⅜-5⅛	5⅜-5⅛	
Sterling Money Rates:	6½-6	6½-6	6½-6	6½-6½	6½-6½
Interbank:	6½-6	6½-6	6½-6	6½-6½	6½-6½

Overnight: open 6½, close 6½.

Local Authority Deps:	6	n/a	6	6⅛	n/-
Sterling CDs:	6½-5⅝	6½-5⅝	6½-5⅝	6½-5⅝	6½-6½
Dollar CDs:	5.33	n/a	5.30	5.51	5.85
Building Society CDs:	6½-6	6½-6	6½-6	6½-6	6½-6½

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅛-4⅞	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5-4
Deutschemark:	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Burnside left on hold

DAVID BURNSIDE, *the* hard-nosed PR who left British Airways *with a* £500,000 pay-off after *being embroiled in the* "dirty tricks" campaign *against Virgin Atlantic*, is threatening to take British *Telecom to court. The Ul*sterman is claiming "sub*stantial*" compensation from BT, which left his *company* without a landline, after Burnside put in an order more than two months ago, before moving to his new offices overlooking the Thames. "I intend to sue them for loss of business," says Burnside, whose lawyer delivered an ultimatum to BT on the same day as his PR clients Flying Flowers announced acquisitions totalling £5.2 million.

Company referee

ROBERT KILROY-SILK, the morning television presenter, is offering his skills as a referee to companies fraught with internal fighting. Every housewife's favourite face has joined forces with Andrew Chance, the corporate entertainer, to promote Kilroy-Silk as the ultimate arbitrator. Various companies, including British Gas and British Rail, have expressed an interest in rounding-up shareholders and representatives from across the board, to clear the air once and for all, in Kilroy-Silk's BBC studios. Events hosted by Kilroy-Chance will not, however, be televised.

Pastures new

THE Australian Government, *the owner of about* 60 properties in central London, is opting for maintenance-free modern houses over period buildings in a bid to cut its budget. After recently snapping-up two modern flats in Docklands, the Australian Government has just purchased the remaining property on the new Cholmeley Grange development in Highgate for £1.25 million. The six bedroom house will be the home of the newly appointed Australian Deputy High Commissioner, whose predecessor was kept in old-style accommo*dation in Belgravia.*



Wedding recipe

THE chief executive of *Chrysalis Radio*, Richard Huntingford, is marrying the cook who used to run his works canteen on Bramley Road. Huntingford and his bride, 40-year-old Nicky Baker, who have both been married before, will rally guests to St Mary's, Barnes, in eight huge Heart 106.2 patrol vehicles, for their blessing this Friday.

Royal confusion

ASKED about some of the recent City speculation about mergers, Lord Younger, former Defence Secretary and chairman of the Royal Bank of Scotland, was clearly none too impressed with the accuracy of information arriving from the Square Mile. The Royal Bank, he said, had been puzzled by gyrations in its share price last week, only to find that brains in the City had confused the Royal Bank of Scotland with Royal Insurance, as word spread of the insurance group's proposed merger with Sun Alliance.

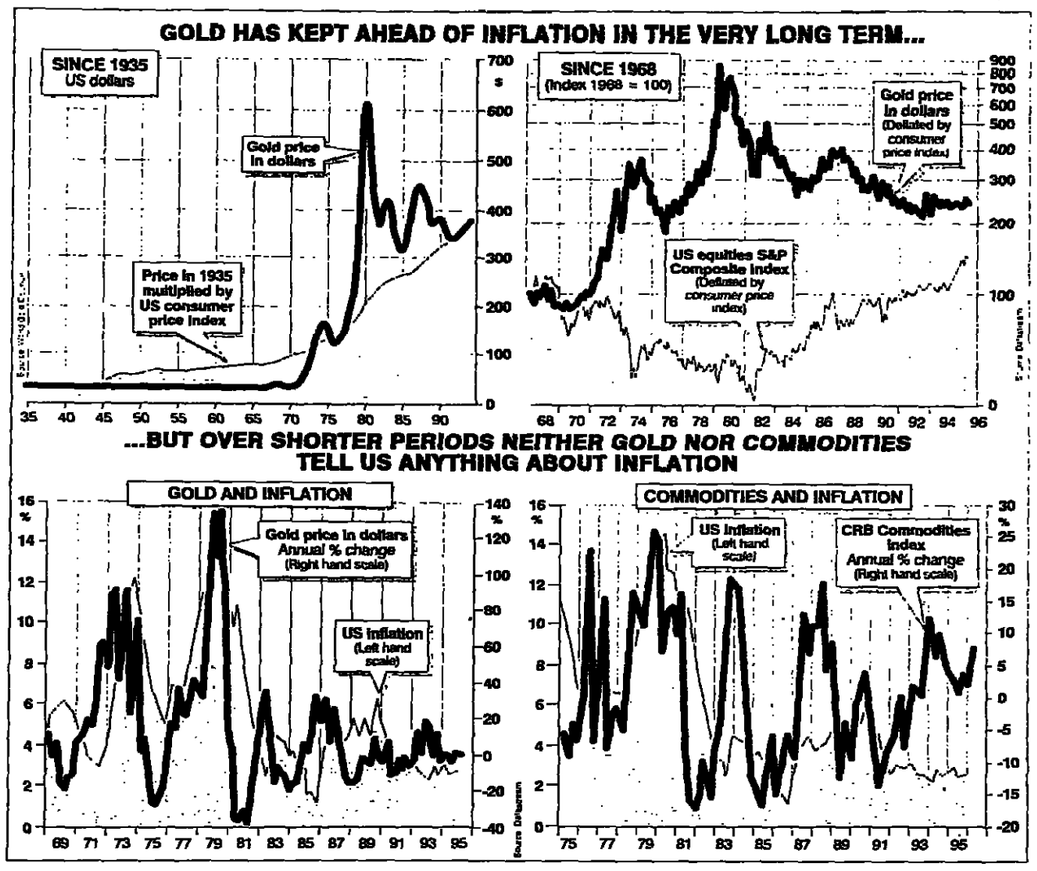
MORAG PRESTON

ECONOMIC VIEW — ANATOLE KALETSKY



When all currencies are weak, what about gold?

Investors who are unsure which way to turn are looking at precious metal



Today, there is no such thing as a "hard currency". As I found on a recent trip to Switzerland, the question for conservative investors is no longer which country will have a strong currency; it is which currency will be least weak. And when none seems to fit the bill, attention turns to the oldest refuge from economic uncertainty: gold.

With the recent swing of German opinion in favour of European monetary union and the palpable ferment among the Swiss against their overvalued franc, every significant country in the world has now turned against a "strong" currency. Indeed, most governments have embraced the apparently perverse doctrine that I have been preaching in these columns for years: in a non-inflationary world, a hard currency is not a virility symbol but a tumour; a weak currency is a source of economic power.

Today, the hard-currency policies traditional in countries like Germany are doomed to failure. Since the mid-1960s, Germany has periodically revalued the mark but managed to stay competitive by achieving lower inflation than its trading partners, particularly those in the rest of Europe which relied heavily on trade with Germany and therefore suffered an inflationary shock every time the mark went up. But this policy of "competitive deflation" no longer works in a world where every country's inflation is close to zero.

The argument is fully explained by Bernard Connolly, the European Commission official who used to oversee the European Monetary System, in a cogent analysis of the Bundesbank's new Euro-friendly monetary framework just published by Lombard Street Research. I heard it more colourfully from another senior European official: "Germany used to have a virtuous circle because the others had a vicious circle; but when the others give up vice, virtue doesn't pay."

The fashion for soft currencies was first openly embraced in America and Japan, but now it has spread to Europe. (Although the French insist on a *franc fort* they make it quite clear that the "strength" in question is only against the mark — they cheer whenever the franc falls against the dollar, yen, lira, peseta or pound.) It has also caught on around the world.

On Tuesday, I noticed the following gem on Reuters: "Economists welcome Mexican peso weakness: Weakness in the Mexican peso during the past week could signal the end of its recent bull run and the end of a fresh headache for government officials who worried that the currency was getting too strong." So even Mexico, just 18 months after its brutal devaluation, has learned to love a weak currency. Of course, it is logically impossible for every currency to fall at the same time. But ironically the only currency that is probably on a long-term uptrend is the one investors are least willing to believe in: the US dollar.

The dilemma was perfectly illustrated in the issue of the Lombard Street International Review which published the Connolly paper. After I summarised this paper, titled *The makings of a D-Mark crisis*, the review's editor, Brian Reading, turned to his own analysis on "the makings of a dollar crisis". His conclusion was "the D-mark's problems are worse than the dollar's", while the yen "may soon become weak in its own right".

In a world like this, it is hardly surprising that conservative investors are at a loss over where to put their money. It is also unsurprising that gold and commodities have started to attract attention in the financial world — in spite of the low levels of inflation and still-depressed industrial conditions around the world.

Could the increasing laxity of global monetary conditions, accompanied by the deliberate debasement of the key currency in Europe, lead to another upsurge in gold prices and perhaps presage the next great inflation? This kind of question has been trotted out regularly since gold peaked at $700 an ounce, by ever-hopeful gold investors the world over. The last such flurry was in January this year when the price poked its head above $405 for the first time since 1990. At the time, I suggested that the gold-bugs' excitement was premature. Now, for the first time in 15 years, I am starting to believe that their time may finally be at hand — largely because there seems to be no truly secure alternative among the flat currencies of the world.

If gold does start to rise significantly in the months ahead, the consequences could be quite disruptive for economic and financial conditions the world over. Rightly or wrongly, the gold price is seen by many investors and central bankers as an indicator of inflationary pressures. This may be irrational and empirically unjustified (as the charts show, there has been no correlation between gold and inflation since 1980) — but it is a fact of financial psychology.

A rising gold price would further unsettle bond markets and could make central bankers err on the side of higher interest rates. With stock markets at record highs, an upsurge in gold could also trigger the long-feared market correction and hit consumer confidence, since an inverse relationship between gold and equity prices does seem to exist (see the top right chart).

To make matters worse, an increase in gold prices would encourage speculation in other commodities, and oil, which is already growing. Several agricultural commodities have recently hit record highs, while rising oil prices in America have been met with legislation to cut petrol taxes, in direct contrast to the conservation measures which helped to convert the energy crises of the 1970s into the present glut.

And while much of the recent jump in the commodity indices could be explained by cold weather and poor harvests, there have also been stirrings in lead, copper and other industrial commodities.

These events are making a deep impression on careful observers of financial and economic conditions. In the past few weeks, several astute commentators from around the world have drawn attention to commodity prices and potential inflation. David Fuller, of Chart Analysis: "Upward pressure on commodity prices won't go away. When intelligent and sophisticated people deny a fact that is as plain as the nose on their face, they do so for an important reason — self-interest. Commodity price inflation threatens to spoil the party like an uninvited guest." The *Bank Credit Analyst* from Montreal: "Bond investors should be concerned by the growing popularity of the view that inflation is not only unlikely, but perhaps also impossible." Finally, *Grant's Interest Rate Observer* from New York: "Watch Dr Copper, the only metal with a PhD in economics".

In sum, gold and commodities are now worth watching. But before getting carried away by the dangers of commodity inflation, several facts must be borne in mind. There has been almost no correlation between either gold or commodity prices and inflation.

In the very long run, gold has been a good hedge against inflation, but it has been a terrible investment since 1979. Yet, even after halving since its peak, gold today is no bargain by historic standards. While many other commodities and metals have recently been near record lows in relation to consumer prices, gold is still twice as expensive in real terms as it was in the 1960s and considerably dearer than in the 1930s. The sort of phenomenal rise it enjoyed in the 1970s, after the breakdown of Bretton Woods seems extremely unlikely.

My personal view, for what it is worth, is that economic growth will accelerate around the world and inflation will start creeping up. Inflation will not rise to anything like the peaks of the past two decades, but it will rise.

Meanwhile, there could be big swings in commodities, oil and perhaps even precious metals. Investors and central bankers must be alert to these but not overreact. The key point to remember is that rising labour costs and inadequate productivity growth are the only real sources of inflation. As always in economic policy, the greatest thing to fear is fear itself. But there is nothing like gold for provoking irrational fear as well as irrational rapture.

The world of temping is here to stay

As two staff providers plan to merge Ross Tieman assesses agency growth

Temporary work just ain't what it used to be. *Corporate down*sizing, out-sourcing and statutory rights for full-time employees have seen to that.

What began as a small-town, small-business upspring of employment agents, providing temp secretaries and manual labourers to cope with seasonal shortages is becoming a global industry fulfilling the needs of blue-chip companies for highly skilled project staff. That, at least, is what the providers would have us believe.

The planned merger between Adia, the Swiss group that owns the Alfred Marks agency in Britain, and Ecco, its larger French counterpart, unveiled yesterday, reveals just how far the business has come. Together, they will enjoy annual revenues of Fr32 billion (£4.11 billion), comfortably ahead, on a like-for-like basis, of Manpower, the American market leader.

*The emergence of tempo*rary staff agencies as big, global businesses is a post-war phenomenon. *Manpower was established in* 1948 to profit from the difficulties of American companies in a tight post-war labour market. Its British and French subsidiary were set up eight years later.

> "We have moved up skill ladder constantly"

Like Adia, established in Switzerland in 1957, and the French Ecco, founded by Phillipe Floriet-Destezet in 1964, Manpower built its early success in an era of full employment. Companies needed temporary secretaries, labourers and warehouse staff to bridge the gaps left by holidays and sickness, or to help them to cope with short-term production surges.

But as the economic stability of the 1960s gave way to the more unpredictable 1970s and 1980s, the seasonal and cyclical nature of the market proved a trial, as well as an opportunity, for all the players.

It was during these years that the foundations were laid for a transformation. Gradually, they began to move up-market, recruiting staff with specialist skills in accountancy, engineering and information technology.

The restructuring undertaken by both manufacturing and service companies in the US and Europe during the late 1980s and 1990s has widened the market for *temporary staff. Competition* has forced companies to concentrate on their core competences and trim support staff. Extended entitlements to paid holidays, maternity leave and other benefits have forced up non-wage costs.

In Britain, and elsewhere, companies meet increases in their workload by hiring temporary staff until they are sure the need for the post will be sustained. At the same time, says Lillian Bennett, chairman of Manpower in Britain, many companies will hire temporary employees to assist with short-term projects, such as the installation of a new computer system.

"We have moved up the skill ladder constantly over the last 20 or 30 years," she says. Hiring out better-paid employees increases the *return to the agencies, and* reduces the cyclical nature of their business.

Scale of operations, and *investment in computers* and training have become *important. To supply an* individual *with the right* skills requires a big, well-organised *database of* talent.

But that is only part of the temporary staff companies' mutation. Increasingly, they are taking on a managerial role, supplying services to companies eager to buy in skills outside their areas of core competence. Manpower now has contracts to operate complaints and inquiry telephone services for several clients.

There can be no doubt that deregulation of employment markets helps the agencies to thrive. Three years ago, Spain lifted restrictions on use of temporary staff. Since then, Ecco's Spanish business has grown three-fold.

Figures from Adia and *Ecco show that* between 1989 and 1994, the proportion of the UK workforce in temporary employment rose from less than 1 per cent to 1.6 per cent, level with France and only a whisker behind the US. In Germany and Japan, still tightly regulated, the proportions are only 0.6 per cent and 0.3 per cent respectively. Consolidation in the industry may be gathering pace, but the market still appears to have ample room for growth.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Questionable NatWest redundancies a costly burden on the community

From Mr Mark Dunn

Sir, The news that NatWest plans to make 3,000 of its staff redundant, as a part of a plan to restructure its business, does not come altogether as a surprise, because we have become used to large businesses making similar moves, in their desire to stay ahead of their competitors, or, more often, in an attempt to stop the accumulation of losses.

But in this age when the disciplines of the market are held to be supreme, I wonder whether this particular planned course of action does not amount to the breaking of a social contract with the rest of the community.

I am neither an employee nor a shareholder in this large bank, but I am a taxpayer and I do contribute to the National Insurance scheme. Equally, I pay local government taxes on my property.

It seems to me to be arguable that a considerable and costly burden is being handed, by this large asset-rich, profitable and proprietorial business, to the rest of the community, in circumstances where there is no real need for it itself not to meet all the costs of the social consequences of its action.

Why should my taxes and contributions be used to further the strategic planning of a financial institution, which is solvent and has growth plans.

Once, no self-respecting and solvent British financial institution would have left any unwanted employee as a call on the community, and had it done so, the financial and investment institutions would have soon made it understand the error of its ways. The fact that it is now possible for your newspaper to report the detail of NatWest's intentions without so much as a "raised eyebrow" is frightening evidence of a general lack of integrity and a sense of duty among people who should know better.

Yours faithfully
MARK DUNN,
Wildham,
Stoughton,
Chichester,
West Sussex.

Matter of confidence

From J. N. Maney

Sir, In his letter of May 3, M. J. Hart says that he has complete confidence in the chairman of Eurotunnel, and that his company, Foreign and Colonial Investment Trust, is one of the few UK institutional investors in Eurotunnel. As a small shareholder in F&C, should I have complete confidence in their investment?

Yours faithfully,
J. N. MANEY,
Four Winds, Warboys Road,
Bury, Ramsey, Huntingdon.

Finger of blame for stagnation in exports

From Mrs A. C. H. Jenkins

Sir, Anatole Kaletsky argues (Economic View, May 2) that the Bank of England is to blame for the stagnation of British exports since the end of 1994. This very partial view takes no account of a 15 per cent rise in the price of manufactured exports between the last quarter of 1992 and the end of 1994, which eroded almost all the gains in competitiveness accruing from sterling's depreciation post black/white Wednesday.

It is Britain's industrialists whom Mr Kaletsky should be fingering for 15 per cent price rises over a period when the cost of their inputs grew less than 10 per cent. No doubt these industrialists will soon squeal that sterling is overvalued, indifferent to what depreciation means for British consumers who like to spend a portion of their earnings on foreign goods and holidays.

Yours faithfully,
ANGELINA JENKINS,
71 route de Bourdigny,
1242 Satigny, Switzerland.

Here's to Dubai

From Mr Ken George

Sir, Let me assure the lucky winners from BACUP's City quiz (City Diary, May 1) that their two nights in Dubai should be anything but dry.

Yours faithfully,
KEN GEORGE,
PO Box 26379,
Dubai.

Letters to the Business and Finance section of The Times can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5112

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Court rules council does not have to repay loan

BY IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

GOVERNMENT hopes that private sector money will fund public sector capital projects received a body blow from the Court of Appeal yesterday.

Its landmark ruling will damage the credit rating of local authorities and make City financiers doubly cautious about lending them money in future.

In a unanimous ruling, the judges agreed that Allerdale District Council in Cumbria would not have to repay £6 million it had borrowed from Crédit Suisse because the merchant bank had chosen to ignore the fact that the council was exceeding its powers in raising that amount of money.

The statutory limit on the council's borrowing in 1985-6 when it took out the loan to build a leisure centre and timeshare complex in Keswick was £3,682,000. To try to get round this, it formed a wholly owned subsidiary — the Allerdale Development Company — which borrowed the money.

The project quickly collapsed with mountainous debts and the council reneged on the debt, claiming its loan guarantee was a nullity because it had exceeded its powers in raising that much money.

Lord Justice Gibson said it was an unattractive feature of the case that the council was asserting that it had acted illegally in order to resist the bank's claim for its money. Allerdale relied on its own breach of duty to the public to renege on its private law obligations, he said.

Nevertheless, the bank had entered into the contract well aware of the essential nature of the scheme and it was therefore not entitled to a penny of its money back.

The bank, which claimed that to allow the council to get away scot-free because it had exceeded its own powers flew in the face of common sense, was granted leave to appeal to the Lords.

Mr Christopher Clarke, QC, for the bank said that the case raised issues of general public importance and a number of other cases were waiting on the judgment.

A spokesman for the Association of District Councils said: "This will add to the uncertainty about the Private Finance Initiative at a time when the Government is encouraging us to use it."

He added: "There is bound to be a ripple effect because it affects all areas where there are private investors and they will now be querying a local authority's ability to offer guarantees."

Chief goes as Sidlaw falls to loss

BY MARTIN BARROW

DIGBY MORROW has left as chief executive of Sidlaw with immediate effect after the announcement by the packaging and oil services company of a first-half loss and a cut in its interim payout.

The search is on for a successor from outside the company for Mr Morrow, who played a key role in reshaping Sidlaw in the early 1990s. Michael Walker, chairman, will act as chief executive temporarily.

In the half year to March 31, Sidlaw lost £1.4 million before tax, against profits of £4.1 million in the previous first half. The interim dividend falls to 1p, from 4.5p.

Mr Walker said Mr Morrow was leaving "against a background of unsatisfactory results".

Packaging lost £1.2 million (profits of £2.5 million previously). Profits from oil services fell to £1.9 million (£3.3 million).

JOHN COGILL



Jim Flavin with one of the products that contributed to a 14 per cent rise in pre-tax profits

Healthcare boosts DCC

BY RACHEL BRIDGE

STRONG demand for snack and health foods helped DCC, the Irish industrial holdings group, to push up its pre-tax profits 14 per cent to Ir£28.9 million in the year to March 31.

Jim Flavin, chief executive, said that, while children are eating more savoury snacks, their parents are choosing healthier options such as Kelkin, its multivitamin drink. This has helped to lift food operating profits almost 25 per cent to Ir£8.2 million.

Profits were also helped by a first-time contribution from DCC's recent UK acquisition, Group of Days Medical Aids, which makes rehabilitation products.

Total healthcare operating profits rose 45 per cent to Ir£3.3 million. In computer services, profits rose 3 per cent to Ir£7.8 million.

Mr Flavin yesterday pledged to complete the group's five-year transition from passive venture capitalist to actively managed group with a gradual buyout of the group's minority holdings in its subsidiaries, beginning with its food interests in the Kelkin and Robert Roberts brands. During the year DCC acquired both the outstanding 40 per cent interest in Flogas, its gas subsidiary, and the outstanding 25 per cent interest in Emo Oil.

The full-year dividend rises from Ir6.16p a share to Ir6.90p with a final of Ir4.19p.

Zeneca sells textiles colours business

BY ERIC REGULY

ZENECA, the pharmaceuticals and chemicals group, yesterday sold its loss-making textiles colours business to BASF of Germany for up to £138 million in cash. The disposal completes the restructuring of its specialty chemicals division.

The textiles colours business will be integrated with BASF's textiles and leather dyes operations, making it the third largest business of its kind in the world. In 1995, the BASF dyes operations had sales of DM850 million and production sites around the world, including China, and two joint ventures in China and Japan.

The deal will see Zeneca transfer 730 employees and net assets of £65 million, including production sites at Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, and in Brazil and the US to BASF.

Zeneca's manufacturing sites at Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, and Grangemouth, Scotland, will remain with the company to service contracts for the production of textile dyes for BASF.

The final sales price is to be set once the inventory levels are determined. In addition, Zeneca is to retain net working capital of £11.9 million, which will be collected by BASF on Zeneca's behalf.

A Zeneca spokesman said that the colours business suffered a small loss on sales of £202 million in 1995, but would provide no other details. No turnround was in sight, he said, because of increasingly strong competition from low-cost manufacturers in the Far East.

The disposal comes shortly after the sale of Zeneca's specialty inks business to Sun Chemical Corp of America for $62 million. Zeneca has no immediate plans to sell any other businesses in its specialty chemicals division.

After the sale of the textiles colours business, the specialty chemicals division will be left with annual turnover of about £700 million and 5,500 employees. Its activities will include the production of industrial colours such as the ink used in photocopiers, resins and organic disinfectants known as biocides.

Tempus, page 28

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Gus Carter agrees Stanley Leisure bid

STANLEY LEISURE, the betting shops and casinos group, is making an agreed £14.7 million bid for Gus Carter, its smaller North East rival. Mike Kershaw, Stanley's chief executive, said that Gus Carter's 74 shops were in an area where Stanley Racing was under-represented, with only eight branches. The move will give Stanley Racing about 530 outlets, consolidating its position behind Coral, William Hill and Ladbrokes.

Stanley tried to buy Gus Carter two years ago, but the Trewhitt family, who still own 57.2 per cent of the shares, thought they could get a better price by going to the stock market. Mr Kershaw said that Stanley's offer, worth 93p a share, was very similar to its original offer. He said: "The timing [of Gus Carter's float] was unfortunate. They have had a difficult first year on the market." Stanley is offering 20 new shares for every 102 Gus Carter shares. Gus Carter shareholders can also opt to take 93p a share in cash.

Kodak snaps at Fuji

EASTMAN KODAK'S chief executive yesterday said he has "a better chance of competing in the Olympics" than of selling Kodak film in Japan. At Kodak's annual shareholders' meeting, George Fisher said the settlement of its trade dispute with rival Fuji Photofilm was far from imminent. It is less than two months before the US Government's deadline to impose trade sanctions against Japan. Kodak claims anti-competitive practices have given Fuji a monopoly in Japan.

Beattie's profits slip

PROFITS at James Beattie, the department stores group, fell to £5.9 million before tax, from £6.3 million, in the year to January 31. At the operating level, profits were unchanged at £5.1 million. Earnings edged higher to 9.1p a share, from 8.9p. A final dividend of 5.05p a share lifts the total to 6.65p from 6.4p. Sales rose 6.2 per cent to £90.3 million last year, but were almost 10 per cent higher in the first quarter of the current year, Sir Eric Pountain, the chairman, said.

Flying Flowers in deals

FLYING FLOWERS, the distributor of fresh flowers and bedding plants, is making three acquisitions worth a total of £5.26 million. It is buying Blooms of Bressingham, a grower of plants and shrubs distributed through garden centres and by mail order; Clarke & Spears, a distributor of houseplants; and Benham Collectors Club, a supplier of first day stamp and coin covers. The deals will be funded via a £5.26 million placing and open offer of one new share for every six held at 157p each.

Avon Rubber ahead

AVON RUBBER, the automotive components and technical products company, lifted pre-tax profits to £10.2 million in the half year to March 30, from £7.5 million in the previous first half, on turnover of £172.2 million, up from £150 million. Earnings per share were 24p, up from 16.6p. The interim dividend, due on July 26, rises to 5.75p, from 5.35p. The shares gained 25p, to 623p. Avon said that although its markets were still competitive, it remained confident about prospects.

Norcros expanding

NORCROS is expanding its interests in adhesives with a number of acquisitions from BTR for a total of £27.3 million. It is buying Dunlop Adhesives, a BTR subsidiary, and acquiring BTR's interests in three joint ventures with Norcros, namely Building Adhesives, Australian Building Adhesives, and TAL. Dunlop Adhesives, based in Birmingham, makes ceramic, industrial and specialist adhesives. The joint venture companies operate in the UK, Australia and South Africa.

ACCOUNTANCY

Investing in people pays off

Andrew Colquhoun on a scheme to make the most of human assets

Increasingly, in modern post-industrial economies, the principal assets of organisations are human, not plant. For those organisations to succeed, they must invest in their people on a planned and systematic basis.

That thinking is as relevant to the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales as it is to any other employer. That is why the institute worked for, and has just won, the Investors in People (IiP) Award. In particular, we see the IiP scheme as offering potential for improving the institute's service to members.

Developed by business leaders on the National Training Task Force, which advised the then Secretary of State for Employment on training and enterprise issues, the IiP scheme is administered by the Training and Enterprise Councils and is endorsed by the TUC and the CBI.

The IiP National Standard requires organisations aspiring to qualify to make a public commitment to the development of all employees in order to achieve business aims. Employers should have a written, but flexible, plan setting out business targets. They must consider how employees will contribute to achieving the plan, and how development needs will be assessed and met. The management is also required to communicate to all employees a clear sense of the organisation's aims and the contribution that employees will make to its success.

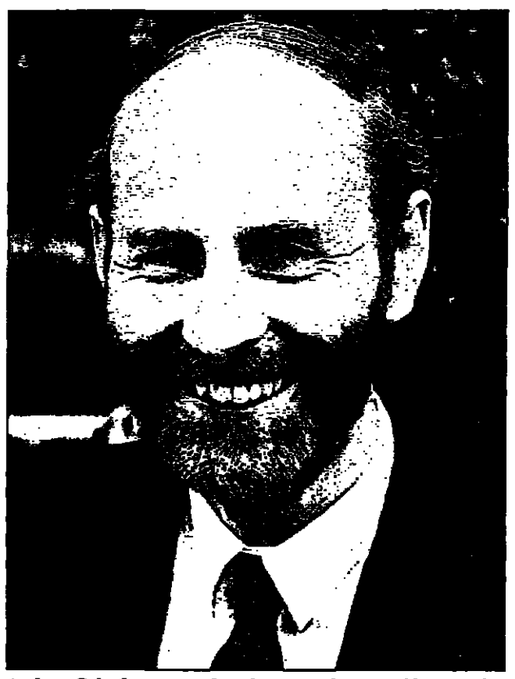
Secondly, the National Standard requires regular review of all employees' training and development needs. Managers must agree these needs with each employee in the context of business aims, setting targets and standards.

Thirdly, action should focus on new recruits' training needs, and all employees should be encouraged to identify their own job-related development needs.

Finally, an IiP candidate organisation should review and improve the competence and commitment of employees, and the effectiveness of training and development programmes.

The Government believes its IiP scheme is aiding economic effectiveness by setting a standard of excellence. For employers, such as the institute, the scheme is a useful external discipline to ensure that staff development policies are linked effectively to business aims.

Not surprisingly, the scheme's value has been noticed by a number of national accountancy firms, which have won — or are working towards — accreditation.



Andrew Colquhoun says the scheme can improve ICA's service

Like the institute, they have not found the scheme a walkover. Assessment is rigorous; for instance, about a fifth of staff had confidential interviews with an independent assessor who visited the institute in a review lasting several days to collect evidence on whether it was reaching assessment benchmarks. This was part of the "exam". To get to that point required sustained work since signing on the dotted line with the City of London Training and Enterprise Council, our local awarding body, 15 months ago.

We have now set up a staff training and development programme explicitly linked to the annual planning process. We also put more effort into analysing the effectiveness of training. The result is that the training budget is now better focused on business priorities.

Last year, training money was allocated to marketing and project management to help our communications and education and training teams to carry out major campaigns. Special effort also went into training managers to ensure that they were all willing and able to take personal responsibility for staff development.

Creating an understanding of the direction taken by management is a key requirement of the IiP scheme. Responding to this, we set out to overhaul and strengthen staff communications. The regular staff newsletter and monthly presentation by each department have proved their worth in helping staff to understand the institute's aims and activities.

The direct cost of implementing the IiP programme was surprisingly slight. Rather we refocused existing expenditure on staff development to increase cost-effectiveness.

Qualifying for the IiP "Oscar" has been hard work, but worthwhile. Members of staff are now more motivated, with better job satisfaction and career opportunities. Our training is more relevant to business needs. Staff should be better equipped to provide a good service to members. One strength of the IiP scheme is that organisations are not allowed to become complacent. We face reaccreditation in three years' time, and shall be expected to show continuing improvement in training and development. The laurels awarded in the IiP scheme are not for resting on.

☐ *Andrew Colquhoun is chief executive of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales*

Softly-softly on the matter of liability

THERE is something to be said for being a native of a younger and more vigorous country than ours. People tend to be blunter and clearer about what they see as wrong. And they tend not to hedge about the concept of injustice with mumbled reasoning as to why something that is undoubtedly unfair should not be set to rights.

The report of the professional liability steering group on joint and several liability, which has been sent to the Department of Trade and Industry, does its best to redress that balance. It does so, in part, by simply including papers on the topic from both the US and Canada. Both clear away the cobwebs in noisy fashion. But the report itself has taken a leaf out of the book of those countries, and they are now in the majority, that have adopted the solution of some form of proportionate liability.

To begin at the beginning. This report is the profession's official response to Professor Andrew Burrows, author of the Law Commission's feasibility report on joint and several liability. This is how it sums up the central issue: "We believe that the issue of professional liability is the most serious to have faced the auditing profession, as well as many others, for a lifetime. The Law Commission recognises this in its report. There is currently a profound imbalance in the risk-reward relationship of auditing resulting from the operation of the law of joint and several liability. Auditors are being sued for amounts totally out of proportion to their involvement in alleged wrongdoings. The cost of defending and, where necessary, settling these claims is a substantial burden on the profession, especially since insurance cover is unavailable for many larger firms."



ROBERT BRUCE

That, in a sizeable nutshell, is that. Only by making professionals proportionately liable can the problem be addressed. So where do we go from here? If we were any other country than the United Kingdom, something might change as a result of the overwhelming evidence of injustice. But, as the Burrows report made plain, change should not happen, the main argument being that injustice and unfairness have no central role in the law. It is the principles of the law that matter. And, in a situation like this, where only a change to the principles could bring justice, then Professor Burrows is sorry, but justice is hardly the priority. Contrast this, as the report does, with the rest of the world. Within the European Union, "proportionate liability applies to auditors in nearly twice as many member states as does joint and several liability". Even Switzerland, that touchstone of respectability and conservatism, changed the law some four years ago.

"In the United States," the report points out, "proportionate liability in cases against auditors predominates at both the federal and state level. In the Commonwealth, particularly Australia, reform has already taken place and further change is imminent."

The report includes a paper written by two US experts on how proportionate liability came to win the day over there. They have examined the Burrows report as part of the paper. "The arguments discussed in the report also were the focus of the debate in the United States," they say, "but US decision-makers reached the opposite conclusion." They go on to discuss the arguments both inside and out of Congress but there, in that sentence, in one word, you have the reason why they reached the opposite conclusion to that of the UK legal greybeards.

The word is decision-makers. In the US, the arguments were between people to whom making decisions is a central part of their life and business. The Burrows committee made the fact that they could not take any decisions a justification for ignoring anything that smelled dangerously of pragmatism. On the basis of this heavyweight response from the profession there is a hefty and unavoidable case to answer. Graham Ward of Price Waterhouse, the steering group's chairman, sees some hope. "If the DTI didn't see the possibility of change then they wouldn't have gone through the consultative process. They would simply have said 'Burrows sees no reason for a change in the law so that's that'."

But this is Britain and you can only push very quietly for a decision. The report suggests that a further study should be carried out. "This study would best be carried out by a departmental advisory committee," it argues. This is probably the correct way for the DTI to proceed. But it should do so with speed. And in the best traditions of such bodies someone should provide it at the outset with the details of the conclusion to which it is expected to come.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Finding rhyme in self-assessment

THE onset of self-assessment in the tax world does concentrate the mind. So much so that a little light relief is required. The Chartered Institute of Taxation has decided to offer a magnum of champagne for the best clerihew that readers of this page can come up with to celebrate, illuminate or vilify the self-assessment system.

The bright spark who thought this up is John Andrews, of Coopers & Lybrand, and his effort to show the way runs as follows:

The Inland Revenue opine
Self-assessment is fine
But for me and for you
I doubt if it's true

Well, as they always say at this point, if you think you can do better than that . . . Send your entries to John Andrews, c/o The Chartered Institute of Taxation, 12 Upper Belgrave Street, London SWIX 8BB. Or fax them on 0171-235 2562. The closing date is May 20.

Not too taxing

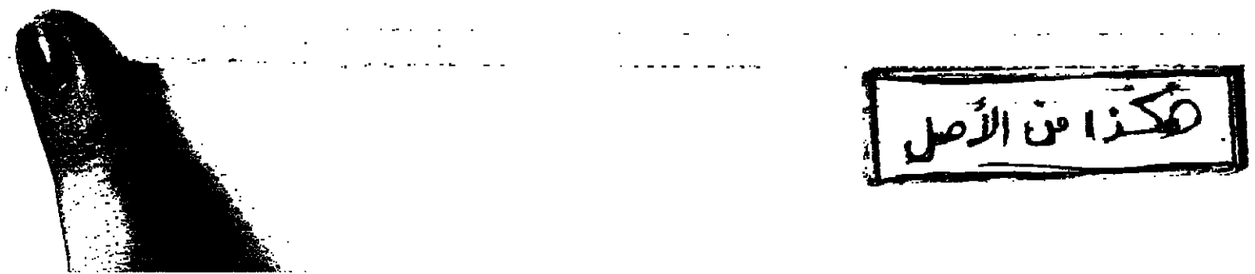
When self-assessment becomes fact next spring, the taxmen of Britain are going to need protection from all the flak they are going to get. They should hark back to more pleasant times.

In a recent symposium of papers from an Institute for Fiscal Studies conference, KPMG's Roger White, quoted this recruitment advertisement for inspectors of taxes in the interwar period.

"The work is congenial to anyone of education, there is no irksome interference from unsympathetic masters, no hidebound regulations or cast iron codes; above all remuneration and leisure provide the means and the opportunities of cultivating hobbies and favourite pastimes," it said.

Time to light up my pipe and ponder the cricket scores, I think.

ROBERT BRUCE



THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

هكذا من الأصل

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
01895 256 700				
Dublin Asset	215.20	227.70	- 0.40	0.14
Dublin Equity	260.60	280.80	- 1.40	1.87
Dublin Euro	271.80	287.60	- 2.40	0.56
Dublin Ord Bal	105.20	140.10		2.51
Dublin Gilt	75.74	78.08	- 0.11	6.12
Dublin Japan	184.60	205.00	+ 0.80	
ASIA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc.	648.80	691.30	- 3.80	2.45
General Inc.	552.00	587.30	- 3.10	2.45
UK Growth Acc	438.60	467.20	- 2.70	2.68
UK Growth Inc	388.00	387.10	- 1.70	2.68
Higher Inc Acc	700.00	640.50	- 4.00	4.69
Higher Inc Inc	438.00	458.50	- 2.40	4.69
Gilt/Fxd Int Inc	203.90	215.30	+ 0.20	5.68
Gilt/Fxd Int Inc	91.51	96.65	+ 0.69	5.66
Nth America	362.20	408.70	- 2.40	
Europe	355.90	378.70	- 3.50	0.41
Gilt Fund	97.35	92.94	- 0.48	2.85
Gilt Tracker Acc	115.50	122.90	- 0.30	4.56
Gilt Tracker Inc	79.43	84.19	- 0.24	4.56
Balanced Inc	99.84	63.87	- 0.22	2.56
Japan Acc	39.96	54.27	+ 0.01	
Far Easte Acc	492.50	468.20	- 2.40	0.76
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 333				
Gilts & Fixed Int	127.90	135.40	+ 0.20	7.39
High Inc Equity	182.10	194.80#	- 0.60	4.43
Worldwide Bond	286.20	303.40#	+ 0.10	4.61
American Growth	363.00	388.30	- 0.40	0.19
Asian Pacific	365.70	391.40	- 2.10	0.69
Assets & Earnings	304.80	324.30#	- 0.40	2.78
Euro Capital Acc	148.20	152.70	- 0.90	0.70
Euro Inc	43.97	46.78#	- 0.03	8.98
General	229.90	244.70	- 0.60	2.95
Global Opps	68.60	74.04	+ 0.40	0.54
Japan	137.90	146.50	+ 0.40	
Managed Inc	48.22	51.30#	- 0.07	4.53
Undefined	171.30	183.10	- 0.20	1.48
US Emerging Cos	210.70	224.20	+ 0.40	
Ethical	62.56	66.61	- 0.02	2.46
International	144.30	153.50	- 0.10	0.57
Dividend & Growth	69.28	72.64	+ 0.24	4.23
Global Growth & Inc	72.77	77.64	+ 0.31	2.42
Latin America	63.45	67.50	+ 0.51	
Capital Reserve	140.30	149.30	+ 0.10	5.23
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2298.00	2373.00		
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 833 388				
Amer Inc & Growth	58.61	60.87(	- 0.45	0.58
Emerging Mkts	75.64	79.98	- 0.34	0.04
Europe	151.50	157.90	- 0.30	1.37
Extnd	1059.20	1129.90#	+ 0.20	1.65
Extra Income #	48.02	51.52	+ 0.02	6.43
Far East Emg Eqs	148.40	147.40	- 0.40	0.45
Fixed Interest #	24.25	25.65	+ 0.01	8.29
Fund Inv Tst	155.70	163.50#	+ 0.20	9.38
Japan	200.60	208.60	- 0.60	
Latin American	57.14	59.98	+ 0.24	0.02
Pacific	80.70	85.53#	- 0.47	0.26
Property Shares	88.98	93.43#	- 0.47	2.42
UK Emerging Cos	73.58	29.45	+ 0.01	1.21
UK Growth	51.40	54.32#	- 0.32	2.16
Abtr World Pot #	83.26	84.77	- 0.38	1.87
Stk Inc	81.75	85.93	- 0.31	4.15
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	50.33	50.33	+ 0.01	7.46

For ARGUS see Middleton

AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0171 256 5656				
Bondit Property #	94.55	101.50	....	5.08
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD				
01492 305 958				
Annty Income	90.27	95.76	- 0.42	2.03
Income Builder Inc	79.52	85.02	- 0.29	2.76
ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC				
IFA dlg: 01793 610 368 Client dlg: 01793 514 514				
Balanced Trusts				
Growth & Income	271.90	289.60#	- 0.80	3.28
Capital	486.00	522.70#	- 1.50	1.29
Balanced	786.00	851.50#	- 2.40	2.44
Accumulator	1524.00	1629.00#	- 3.00	1.92
Income Trusts				
American Income	58.94	63.98	- 0.43	2.58
High Income	439.30	469.60	- 2.40	4.83
Equity Income	248.40	265.50	- 0.40	3.98
High Yield	264.90	283.10#	- 0.60	4.13
Cont Securities	33.85	34.87#	- 0.06	6.26
International Trusts				
Amer Spec Sits	210.20	224.60#	- 2.80	0.09
European Growth	51.45	54.86	+ 0.26	0.07
International	184.80	197.20	- 1.30	0.11
Japan	226.20	241.40	- 0.70	
Pacific	446.10	476.60	- 2.50	
Spec of Investg	570.40	608.10	- 3.00	0.13
Middle Asset Inf	58.07	62.07	- 0.32	0.02
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	615.90	658.30	- 1.10	1.53
Smlr & Gth	48.50	51.84	- 0.26	4.18
Smaller Cos	2117.70	2257.10	+ 0.80	0.56
2nd Smaller Cos	2368.70	2530.90	+ 0.80	0.84
Recovery	171.20	183.60#	- 0.30	1.54
Mid Mkt & City	193.10	206.30#	- 0.20	0.15
Dists Earnings	413.00	442.30	- 1.70	1.14
Technology	236.00	252.20#	- 2.00	
UK Special Sits	384.30	424.60	- 1.40	1.00
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01268 532 911				
Cotswold Dist Pnes	118.70	123.30	....	3.04
Founders Portf Pnes	70.55	73.29	....	1.44
BSI-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 600 0053				
Cash	80.88	85.02	- 0.14	1.65
International	71.38	75.04	- 2.11	..
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD				
0131 222 4242				
America	346.90	370.70	+ 1.20	....
Bond	113.40	119.30#	....	7.84
Brit Grwth Cos	124.80	132.80	....	1.57
Cons & Gen #	72.66	77.32	- 0.36	5.10
Europe	277.50	294.90	- 1.10	0.57
Euro Grwth Cos	123.60	131.60	- 0.39	0.61
Income Gwth	393.70	418.80#	- 1.30	4.17
Japan	353.00	375.70	- 0.80	
Latin American	84.85	90.27	+ 0.67	0.06
Pacific	122.90	130.70	- 1.50	1.12
UK Grwth Cos	85.20	90.66	- 0.27	1.21
Japan Fd +	745.00	788.10	+ 8.30	
Mngd Fd	200.90	213.40#	- 0.90	2.86
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD				
0171 499 8878				
Dlg & Dpsm	376.10	397.90	....	0.90
Capital Gwth	127.40	134.70	....	2.45
Wrldw Dpsm	229.30	242.60	....	0.85
BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD				
0181 534 5544				
Balanced Trusts				
Bal Inv Fd Inc	409.20	435.20#	- 2.00	2.55
Progressive Bal Inc	95.42	98.76	+ 0.10	0.85
Exempt	76.76	84.02#	- 0.31	3.65
Financial	97.54	104.40	- 0.40	2.65
500	530.60	573.60	+ 0.20	2.57
General	318.50	341.50#	- 1.70	2.56
Property	245.60	264.60		6.23
Trustee	228.00	235.20	- 0.60	2.42
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	100.50	100.50#	+ 0.10	5.33
Extra Income #	134.20	143.60#	- 0.40	8.45
Gilt & Fxd Int	98.82	98.82	+ 0.02	8.26
Income #	585.10	625.80#	- 1.80	4.78
Income Builder #	69.56	74.19	- 0.11	5.21
Intl Income	70.71	75.72	- 0.31	2.88
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	137.70	146.80	- 0.70	2.18
Leisure	178.20	190.60	- 0.30	0.84
Recovery	483.90	517.80	- 2.60	2.62
Smlr Cos Inc	58.68	64.27#	- 0.13	2.71
Special Sits	365.80	412.60	- 0.50	1.16
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	189.80	180.50#	- 0.70	0.10
Aust Acc	387.10	327.70	- 0.10	1.89
Aust Inc	185.20	197.60	....	1.89
Euro Gwth Inc	180.10	702.00	+ 0.10	0.55
Japan & Gen Inc	205.30	218.70	....	0.55
Japan & Gen Inc	171.10	181.10	+ 0.50	..
Japan Spec Sits	173.00	183.30	+ 0.50	..
Pacific	79.20	83.50	+ 0.34	
Worldwide	202.60	214.40	- 0.30	0.52
BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 214 1004				
American Growth	126.70	133.90	- 0.60	....
Asia Pacific Cos	176.30	186.70	- 1.10	..
Commodities	81.01	85.30	- 0.14	4.90
Europe	325.60	352.00	- 1.60	0.30
Equity Income	85.19	89.80	- 0.40	3.89
European Growth	377.40	394.50#	- 3.30	0.80
Europe	341.20	362.80	+ 1.30	1.90
Extreme Growth	86.84	90.95	- 0.21	0.50
Global Bond	79.26	83.45	- 0.24	6.48
Global Growth	150.70	160.40	- 0.86	0.48
Japan Growth	238.20	255.60	- 0.10	
Japan Smaller	186.20	197.30	- 0.80	
Korea Trust	84.45	91.42	- 1.01	
Pacific	146.40	156.60	- 0.60	2.30
Pacific Basin	274.00	293.30	- 1.40	2.30
UK Growth	98.48	105.40	- 0.40	2.80
UK Smaller Cos	97.17	103.50#	- 0.20	2.50
Select Managers	91.12	97.66#		1.00
BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 250 3000				
Intl Sterl Prof Inc	94.38	100.40	....	....
Special Oppos Inc	65.95	70.16	....	....
BRITANNIA FUND MGRS LTD				
0161 228 6626				
Balanced Growth	137.33	145.33#	- 2.58	1.47
-do- Accum	156.30	167.51	- 2.97	1.47
Smaller Cos	156.76	164.83#	- 0.18	0.64
Higher Yield #	55.25	58.42#	- 0.18	3.84
American Gth Inc	99.26	105.04	- 0.67	..
American Gth Acc	161.78	171.19	- 0.42	0.12
European Growth	165.03	174.53	- 0.43	0.12
-do- Accum	97.43	28.43	- 0.09	7.91
Global Bond Inc #	93.49	98.58#	- 0.07	1.27
Mngd Pnsn Inc	95.13	98.31	- 0.07	1.27
-do- Accum	168.60	178.63	- 0.67	..
Int Spec Oppo	153.45	164.00	- 0.58	0.25
Pacific Basin	95.00	100.53	- 0.13	3.52
UK General #	93.00	105.82	- 0.14	3.32
-do- Accum #	100.00	105.82	- 0.14	..
Japan	65.61	70.70	+ 0.11	0.72
Gilt & Fixed Int #	97.54	101.19#	+ 0.01	8.72
BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
01771 498 7216				
Short Dated Gilt	64.63	65.46	+ 0.03	6.49
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
0161 837 5060				
Envirion	190.30	200.30	....	1.88
UK Growth	203.10	213.80	- 1.00	2.09
UK Income	143.50	150.90#	- 0.40	4.57
CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD				
01707 822 100				
Can Gen Dist	228.90	244.80	- 1.80	1.62
-do- Income Dist	121.30	128.40#	- 1.10	3.88
-do- Accum	388.40	412.80	- 3.40	3.89
Gilt & Fxd Int	40.12	42.15	+ 0.00	6.45
Growth Units	241.80	258.20	+ 1.30	2.97
Bond	178.60	178.80	....	7.86
Intl Growth	252.70	268.90#	- 1.60	0.20
Intl Income	250.60	265.90	- 2.00	0.19
North American	325.70	346.30	- 1.60	0.74
Far East	226.00	242.00	- 0.70	0.94
UK Smaller Cos	97.60	103.00	- 1.00	0.68
European	92.98	98.80#	+ 0.01	
Japanese Growth	52.98	56.80#	- 1.30	4.15
High Income	210.80	225.20		
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD				
0161 831 7433 Exq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7455				
American & Gen	219.90	233.30#	- 1.10	....
European Inc	92.37	97.75	- 0.47	0.68
Smaller Cos (4-1)	106.02	112.79	- 0.31	1.31
Growth	634.50	668.70	- 1.80	1.54
Income & Growth #	457.20	486.40	- 2.50	3.82
-do- Accum #	675.80	719.00	- 4.30	3.85
Japan & Gen	77.67	82.41	+ 0.25	....
Master Portfolio	£116.77	£120.53†	- 1.10	....
-do- Accum	£143.08	£147.71†	- 83.00	1.87
Special Sits	124.20	132.20	- 0.40	1.56
High Yield	£14.57	£15.03†	- 0.00	4.36

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 0700				
Common Portfolio	101.12	107.83	- 0.25	7.26
American Portfolio	117.40	124.74	- 1.20	0.00
European Portfolio	126.56	134.00#	- 0.44	0.04
High Income	49.83	49.95#	+ 0.19	8.04
Japanese Portfolio	75.54	80.23	+ 0.31	
Pacific Portfolio	165.15	177.00	- 0.69	1.34
UK Equity	96.07	102.67#	- 0.32	3.09
UK Equity & Bd	56.00	59.40	- 0.13	6.41
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG				
01277 588 3815				
Int Fund	756.68	798.12		4.22
Fnd In Cns	152.32	152.94		9.35
CGNF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	751.62	792.28		4.30
Investment Acc	533.65	534.37		
Fixed Int Inc	124.58	125.66		9.27
Fixed Int Acc	216.85	217.71		
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 407 5999				
Exclusive Inv	87.25	92.15	- 2.15	3.22
Black Star Funds	82.28	86.77		
Accss Global Tst	187.06	197.32		0.57
City Fin Assets	78.94	83.94#		1.48
City Fin Europe	119.29	125.27#	- 5.22	
City Fin Intl	97.53	102.41#	- 1.72	9.47
City Fin Japan	168.65	176.47	- 0.67	
Fellers Hse Cap	228.71	240.68		3.14
Fellers Hse Inc	159.83	212.59#		3.81
Barclay Wrld Gth	152.97	162.15	- 0.35	
Fairmont Cap Gth				
Fairmont Inc				
J Sid Inc/Gth Inc	58.24	61.16		1.54
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	63.14		+ 0.02	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0800 373 393				
American Gwth	80.24	85.26	- 0.51	
Dragon Growth	75.89	81.16	- 0.25	0.35
Equity High Inc	89.45	95.16	- 0.58	4.16
-do- Accum	125.90	133.94	- 0.95	4.16
Extra Income Inc	35.62	37.93#	+ 0.01	7.66
Extra Income Acc	57.46	59.35	+ 0.04	7.66
European Gwth	63.46	67.33	- 0.56	1.00
Emergence	31.61	33.88	- 0.25	
General Equity	100.43	106.54	- 0.72	2.91
Japan Growth	57.27	60.93	- 0.07	
Pedigree Gwth	62.38	66.37	- 0.39	2.38
Pnl Sts Cos Inc	38.92	41.43#	+ 0.07	1.30
-do- Accum	61.23	63.86	+ 0.07	1.30
Retirement Inc #	27.71	29.49	- 0.22	5.91
Special Sits	48.59	51.69	- 0.32	1.89
UK & Overseas	60.16	63.83	- 0.34	0.55
COLONIAL UT MGRS LTD				
01534 856 000				
Balanced	67.77	70.50	- 0.25	4.07
Capital	81.20	84.78	- 0.28	2.31
High Income	49.22	51.93	- 0.30	7.49
Top 50	54.28	56.47	- 0.27	2.16
COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPI FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	187.76	199.74(	- 0.64	4.69
Long Gilt	41.20	43.71(	+ 0.06	6.56
Monthly Inc Plus	48.50	51.60	+ 0.09	8.69
Preference Share	45.71	48.63(	- 0.05	8.16
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	135.90	144.15(	- 0.25	5.99
Managed Fund	76.53	81.41(	- 0.35	2.89
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	51.36	54.64(		1.81
-do- Accum	68.74	64.69(		1.81
UK & General	94.15	100.15(	- 0.61	2.16
-do- Accum	122.20	130.00(	- 0.79	2.67
UK Growth	184.01	195.76(	- 0.81	1.43
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	214.20	227.97(	- 2.16	0.61
Far Eastern Gth	148.11	157.56(	- 2.16	0.03
Global Bond	82.66	87.98(	- 0.20	5.84
Japan Growth	127.69	135.84(	- 0.13	
North Amer Gth	231.78	246.57(	- 1.59	
Oriental Growth	85.00	90.44(	- 0.58	
Worldwide Growth	76.94	81.85(	- 0.39	0.10
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPI FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	91.86	91.86(	+ 0.01	5.27
Homeowner Fund	95.51	98.42	- 0.35	5.53
Qualifier Fund	154.80	164.47	- 0.87	1.90
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD				
0171 407 5995				
Consistent UT	36.92	39.49		3.14
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD				
0800 526 358				
Gwth	184.20	196.00(	+ 0.90	1.19
Income	71.23	75.78	- 0.25	4.94
European	74.27	78.01	- 0.57	0.65
Recovery	182.20	193.80(	- 0.40	1.52
CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 283 9494				
Equity Dist	972.20	987.50		3.42
CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD				
01277 680 370				
Fellowship Tst	171.30	148.30(	- 0.29	1.10
Income #	282.40	300.40(	- 1.50	3.98
-do- Accum #	738.10	785.20	- 3.50	3.98
Smaller Cos	238.80	255.00	+ 0.10	0.90
-do- Accum	298.50	315.40	+ 0.20	0.90
Gth Portfolio	101.40	107.80	- 0.50	1.58
High Inc Port #	82.01	87.24	- 0.33	4.36
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD				
0171 416 0177				
Euro Small Cos		1732.00	1772.10	
Japan Small Cos		1405.00	1525.40	
UK Small Cos		2218.50	2305.00	
US Small Cos		2248.40	2286.50	
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS				
0171 377 8919				
Disc Inc		284.70	247.00	2.85

For Dunedin see Edinburgh

EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD				
01242 577 555				
UK Balanced Inc	184.50	174.80	- 0.80	1.85
UK High Inc Inc	168.60	180.40(	- 0.50	3.78
-do- Accum	229.20	243.80(	- 0.80	3.78
UK Pref & F Int	97.95	91.53	+ 0.03	6.01
Economic Opps	108.10	108.48(	- 0.10	0.94
UK Shelf Cos #	69.80	74.04	+ 0.08	0.00
Euro Income Inc	47.07	50.07	+ 0.01	8.51
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0345 089 589				
American	176.80	187.80	- 0.70	0.43
Commodities #	83.12	34.55	- 0.05	5.79
Equity Income #	142.30	151.20	- 0.60	3.97
Extra Inc	91.94	95.58	- 0.35	0.33
Financial	55.87	58.51	- 0.28	1.54
Growth & Inc #	284.50	302.30	- 1.60	2.91
High Div Inc	1574.00	1668.00#	- 6.00	4.55
International	457.40	486.00	- 1.50	0.05
Inc Cap Inc	107.00	114.20(	- 0.40	2.54
Latin American	32.80	34.85	+ 0.33	..
Pacific	91.01	96.70	- 0.76	..
Prof High Inc	71.15	75.60	- 0.26	7.08
Tokyo	254.20	269.90	- 0.80	..
UK Equity	1152.20	1205.00	- 4.10	2.57
UK Gilt & Fxd Int	98.07	98.13	+ 0.30	..
UK Smaller Cos	263.30	279.80(	- 1.20	1.07
Dunedin Unit Trusts				
Equity Income	338.60	349.30	- 4.40	0.60
Inter Asia	255.00	271.20	- 2.10	0.21
Japan Growth	125.30	133.30	- 0.30	..
Jap Smlr Co	526.80	561.20	- 2.30	..
Nth Amer	405.40	429.30	- 0.90	0.69
UK Inc & Gth	245.50	262.10	- 1.50	2.70
ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD				
0171 242 0342				
Gilt Director Dlgs	115.60	123.64	- 3.76	1.36
Growth Acc	558.43	276.92	+ 7.97	0.58
Income	613.67	656.97	- 1.16	4.86
ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD				
01771 873 7281				
Endurance Fd	236.48	251.50		0.96
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
01268 431 480				
European	93.42	98.34	- 0.73	1.86
Ethical Tst	51.83	54.35	- 0.42	0.68
Far Eastern	359.26	357.14	- 1.81	1.49
High Income	138.14	145.41(	- 0.41	4.77
Ins Income Trstng	68.21	58.76	- 0.14	3.27
Intl Growth	148.82	157.76	- 0.74	0.39
North American	144.01	151.58	- 1.01	1.55
Pacific	144.14	141.94(	- 0.53	3.15
Smaller Cos	74.89	78.84	- 0.18	2.84
Special Sits	100.50	105.79	- 0.27	2.47
Tst of Inv Tsts	216.58	227.98	- 0.77	1.08
EVERGROWTH FUND MGMT LTD				
01771 497 5995				
Smaller Cos Inc	229.62	244.28(	+ 1.06	1.52
Smaller Cos Acc	406.20	435.32(	+ 1.92	1.52
Recovery	58.80	62.34	- 0.12	1.36
Recovery Acc	60.02	63.85	- 0.13	1.36
EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD				
01392 412 144				
Capital Growth	88.02	95.46(	- 0.38	....
Fd of Inv Tsts	52.97	56.16	- 0.17	0.52
High Income #	38.27	41.81(	- 0.02	11.22
Mutual	55.32	58.13	- 0.10	....
Zero Preference	42.46	44.62	- 0.03	..
FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
01273 227 707				
Family Asset Tst	91.30	97.12(	+0.000	2.39
United Charities	308.30	319.40(	- 1.50	3.36
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD				
Callbroc Private Clients: 0800 414 161				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00	....	5.50
Bond Funds				
Gilt & Fxd Int	37.10	37.10(	+ 0.03	7.35
Intl Bond	29.40	30.50(	- 0.05	5.59
Income Funds				
High Income	25.40	28.77(	- 0.05	5.39
Income Plus	125.30	133.30	- 0.80	3.97
Annu Eq Inc	61.71	65.18(	- 0.47	1.35
European Income	49.01	52.12	- 0.31	2.91
Far East Inc	28.14	29.63	- 0.13	2.71
Global Convertible	29.80	27.67	- 0.09	2.52
UK Inc Gth	30.16	32.07	- 0.17	2.12
Equity Funds				
ASEAN	73.64	78.55	+ 0.08	..
American	329.90	349.90	- 2.80	..
Amer Spec Sits	188.50	202.10(	- 0.80	..
Japan Smaller Cos	48.40	51.10	- 0.24	..
European	220.70	234.70	- 1.30	0.56
European Opps	78.85	83.84(	- 0.60	0.13
Global Inc	31.50	33.50(	- 0.07	0.66
UK Growth	128.80	128.50	- 0.30	1.11
Growth & Inc	171.10	182.00	- 0.50	2.66
Intl PEP	48.84	49.91	+ 0.23	0.97
Japan Spec Sits	103.60	110.40	- 0.26	..
Japan	201.10	213.60	..	..
Managed Intl	352.30	374.40	- 1.30	0.50
Money Builder	88.44	72.77	- 0.27	..
Recovery	60.67	64.51	- 0.02	1.67
South E Asia	183.70	195.00	- 1.10	0.69
Special Sits	741.80	788.80	- 1.90	0.58
Specialist Funds				
Cash Accum Units	114.10	114.10	+ 0.01	5.50
FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 814 2700				
Balanced #	154.60	157.40	- 2.70	1.69
Inc Photo #	94.92	96.50	- 0.65	3.57
Cap Photo	162.00	164.90	- 0.50	1.08
General Opps	138.80	148.40(	- 2.30	3.81
Growth Inc	36.70	37.42(	- 0.15	0.86
Private Portfolio	496.60	506.40	- 12.50	1.05
FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT				
Dlg 01277 680 386 Admin/Vol 01277 680 359				
Euro Smlr Cos	147.00	156.10	- 1.30	0.69
Emrg Asian	172.60	184.80	+ 0.30	
High Income	21.71	23.09(	- 0.06	9.74
UK Income	119.80	119.70(	- 0.50	4.20
US Smaller Cos	419.50	447.80	- 0.30	
FOSTER & GRAFTHWAITE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD				
0171 407 5995				
Hi Inc Inv Inc	83.94	88.27	- 0.03	3.67
Investment Trust	113.85	118.88	- 0.15	....
UK Smaller Cos	111.29	117.81	- 0.14	0.97

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD				
Enq 0171 330 6500 Dealing 0345 773511				
American Growth	80.69	85.37	- 0.60	
-do- Accum	80.69	85.37	- 0.60	
Asset Selection	717.50	767.50	- 8.50	
Capital Tst	733.10	784.10	- 8.50	
Capital Inc	386.70	422.00(	- 0.10	1.17
-do- Accum	578.50	616.50(	- 0.10	1.17
Cont Smlr Cos	86.02	70.37	- 0.17	0.75
-do- Accum	68.62	74.21	- 0.18	0.75
Convertible	144.35	153.50	- 0.20	5.04
-do- Accum	306.30	325.90	- 0.70	5.04
Emerging Markets	75.35	80.50	- 0.26	
-do- Accum	75.68	80.77	- 0.32	
European	145.90	154.20	- 1.10	0.26
-do- Accum	153.40	162.70	- 1.16	0.26
Extra Income	384.10	408.60	- 3.10	3.75
-do- Accum	589.80	626.00	- 4.80	3.75

Shares close at low of day

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
506	480	Allied Domecq	495	- 3	6.0	17.9
555	500	Bolmer (FP)	509	+ 1	2.5	19.1
138	115	Bass (Stewart)	117	- 1	5.3	25.3
650	615	Glenmorangie A	633	-	2.2	17.8
464	411	Grand Met	426½	+ ½	4.4	18.4
493	435	Guinness	470	+ 7	3.9	15.6
371	315	Highland Distl	371	-	3.1	14.5
185	150	Macallan-Glenl	168	-	1.1	34.7
777	655	Matthew Clark	774	- 1	3.6	-
125	93	Morrison W	123	-	3.8	20
2612½	1706½	SA Breweries	1706½	- 116½	1.7	27.5

BANKS

3594½	2743½	ABN-AMRO	3405	- 103½	4.1	11.7
983	903	Abbey Nat	939	- 9	5.6	10.3
366	322	Alfred Mcks	346	+ 1	5.2	10.1
336	299	Anz New Z	319	+ 2	5.9	-
5243½	3842½	Bank America	4731½	+ 31½	-	-
316	237	Bank Scotland†	297	- 1	3.6	11.3
819	683	Barclays	747	+ 2	4.7	10.8
488	422	Bk of Ireland	485	+ 1	3.7	9.3
462	413	Caln Allen	413	- 4	9.1	6.8
5368½	4031½	Chicorp	5337½	+ 50	-	-
392	318	Chase Man	379	+ 3	3.2	13.2
5157½	3142½	Commerzbk	5143½	+ 46½	3.8	-
1350	1171½	Dai Ichi Kan Y	1316½	+ 9½	0.4	-
3412½	2978½	Deutsche Bk	3150	- 29	2.3	-
1800½	1604½	Espirito Santo	1775	- 24½	4.7	10.2
1502	1355½	Fuji Bank Y	1494	- 7½	0.4	-
472	394	Genrad Nd	394			11.7
2332	1981	Hambros	2288	- 2	3.9	-
1125	911	HSBC	1093	- 7	3.2	9.9
1088	880	HSBC Hld	891	- 18	4.3	9.9
421	385	Irish Perm	388		3.2	-
185	143	King Shaxson	163		5.9	10.2
453	408	Leopold J	440		3.2	15.5
347½	294½	Lloyds TSB	307	- 1½	3.2	13.5
640	576	Nat Aust Bk	606	+ 6	7.2	7.7
717	606	Nat West	624	- 5	5.1	8.7
61	56	Nat Westmnstr	56		4.3	37.5
586	480	Rpl Bk Scot	572		4.1	11.8
1380	1165	Schroders	1266	+ 2	1.5	17.5
1138	980	Schroders NV	1025	+ 2	2.0	14.3
116	99	Singer & Friedl	113	-	4.4	18.1
982½	547	Standard Chartr	801	- 2	2.3	13.1
105	85½	Union	93	-	4.6	-
2174½	2131½	Wells Fargo†	2153½		2.2	-
329½	264	Westpac	272½	- 3½	4.7	-
306	258	Welbeck	300	-	4.9	17.2

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

50	36	Abrds Sh HO	36			7.8
388	263	Accat Hldgs	347			0.7
797½	702	Bass	765	- 1	3.7	17.5
78	45	Bib for the Brk	48		4.3	12.5
177	165	Bluebird Inv	177		5.1	25.3
123	92	City Centre Rest	117½	+ 1½	2.4	22.2
552	463	Compass Gp	533	- 2	1.8	23.5
460	401	Countryside	405	- 7	4.8	18.5
433	412	Fstr Sq 'A'	433	+ 3	2.2	15.8
636	551	Greenalls Gp	624	- 5	2.3	16.9
694	604	Greene King	676	- 2	2.7	16.7
278	224	Grosvenor Inns	253		2.7	26.9
254	194	Group Chez Gerl	227		1.4	22.5
357	300	Hall Jy	313	- 1	4.1	11.6
290	155	Hawtree	210		3.5	12.7
3475	3095	Holt Jy	3300		2.1	-
65	45	Inn Business	54			-
348	313	Mansfield	342		1.9	17.4
356	307	Minton Thop	350	+ 1	2.6	16.5
673	535	Morland	660		3.2	18.5
147	118	My Kinda Town	145		2.6	14.3
6½	4½	Pacmquest	6½		4.6	-
142½	123	Pelican Gp	131		1.6	12.0
237	217	PizzaExpress	230	+ 1	0.8	36.3
437	345	Ramsdens (H)	393	- 54	1.6	40.2
1050	888	Regent Inns	1035		1.8	32.5
700	607	Scot & Nwe	666	- 6	3.3	17.9
358	305	Tom Cobleigh	319	-	1.6	15.6
313	258	Vaux Group	301	- 5	4.2	15.5
998	640	Wetherspoon JD†	956	+ 60	1.1	33.3
1138	1000	Whitbread	1106	- 8	3.1	16.7
682	578	Wolvrhmptn D	680		2.8	16.6
407	297	Yates Bros	403		1.0	35.8
613	425	Young 'A'	613	+ 33	3.1	24.9

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

33	17½	AAF Ind	29	- 1		
146	136	Abbey	139	- 7	3.9	10.9
300	216	Allen	286		2.6	21.3
121	92	Amec	111	- 1	3.4	-
329	233	Andrews Sykes†	313	- 2	3.2	-
200	160	Ashtead	188	- 1	1.7	16.3
38	26	Avenside	38		4.3	-
30	24	Bailey (Geo) Conf	28		4.7	11.8
26	24	Barcon	25	+ 2	0.8	-
291	219	Bardi Dev'd	247	- 1	3.2	16.1
213	166	Bauer Homes	197	- 1	3.7	15.9
344	249	Bellway	317	- 2	3.1	15.1
29	17	Birdsack	19			-
493	463	Blackwdy Gp	480	+ 3	3.7	17.5
173	135	Bpd Bldg	140	+ 2	4.8	50
230	175	Bpd (Hldg)†	243	- 2	3.9	10.5
219	31	Br Bldg & Eng	32		3.1	24.1
1380	1165	Bskyedave	1266	+ 2	1.5	17.5
1138	980	Schroders NV	1025	+ 2	2.0	14.3
116	99	Singer & Friedl	113	-	4.4	18.1
982½	547	Standard Chartr	801	- 2	2.3	13.1
105	85½	Union	93	-	4.6	-
2174½	2131½	Wells Fargo†	2153½		2.2	-
329½	264	Westpac	272½	- 3½	4.7	-
306	258	Welbeck	300	-	4.9	17.2

BUILDING MATERIALS

15	7	Aldrington	9½	+ 2		
342	284	BPB Ind	325	- 2	3.6	15.1
124	97	Baggeridge Bk	113		4.5	14.9
42	31	Banford	41	- ½	6.7	-
65	47	Blockleyst	63			-
376	322	Blue Circle†	369	- 2	4.2	20.0
97	77	Bowaven PLC†	93		6.5	14.9
130	108	Br Dredging†	128		3.1	10.8
843	673	CRH	836	+ 2	2.0	16.1
329	252	Caledonia Hldy	43		4.7	-
173	140	Capel	172		8.8	12.3
247	195	Caradon	234	+ 4	6.1	23.2
127	106	Caradon pf	118	+ 1	7.1	-
26	19	Chatham Gpt	25		5.0	-
472	394	Concrete Ind	394		7.1	12.7
232	198	Hanbros	228	- 2	3.9	-
1125	911	Hanson	1093	- 7	3.2	9.9
1088	880	HSBC Hld	891	- 18	4.3	9.9
421	385	Irish Perm	388		3.2	-
185	143	King Shaxson	163		5.9	10.2
453	408	Leopold J	440		3.2	15.5
347½	294½	Lloyds TSB	307	- 1½	3.2	13.5
640	576	Nat Aust Bk	606	+ 6	7.2	7.7
717	606	Nat West	624	- 5	5.1	8.7
61	56	Nat Westmnstr	56		4.3	37.5
586	480	Rpl Bk Scot	572		4.1	11.8
1380	1165	Schroders	1266	+ 2	1.5	17.5
1138	980	Schroders NV	1025	+ 2	2.0	14.3
116	99	Singer & Friedl	113	-	4.4	18.1
982½	547	Standard Chartr	801	- 2	2.3	13.1
105	85½	Union	93	-	4.6	-
2174½	2131½	Wells Fargo†	2153½		2.2	-
329½	264	Westpac	272½	- 3½	4.7	-
306	258	Welbeck	300	-	4.9	17.2

CHEMICALS

188	156	Albright & Wilt	178		4.6	-
139	125	Allied Colloids	137	+ 1	3.4	20.9
210	165	Amber Ind	190		3.7	12.4
100	66	Amberley Gp	93		1.7	36.8
1188½	1144½	BASF DM	1178½	- 28½	3.4	-
948	872	BOC	890	- 4	3.8	18.6
340	266	BTP	296	- 3	4.6	17.3
2229½	1779	Bayer USD	2213½	+ 84½	3.0	-
102	70	Brent Chems	101		3.9	19.2
279	195	Br Vita†	260		4.9	16.4
257	192	Canning (W)	253		4.0	16.4
460	401	Courtaulds	405	- 7	4.8	18.5
351	311	Crodat	343	- 1	3.4	16.6
250	208	Dorlton†	249		3.4	14.2
266	246	Ellis & Everard	266		3.6	15.2
84	74	Exot Colour	81		3.8	20.5
197	164	Gibbon	164		5.0	11.8
93	76	Hickson	76		3.2	-
2338½	1774½	Hoechst	2305½	- 39½	2.7	-
168	102	Holiday Chem	149		3.4	17.5
958	758	ICI	878	- 6	4.3	12.6
402	329	Inspec	393	- 3	2.3	15.6
147	131	Yuasa	140		4.3	-
782	629	Lawrtsn	736	- 2	4.0	17.5
325	275	Mandarin	300	+ 1	4.8	13.7
97	76	Mortstern	93		2.4	-
37	30	Melrobert	31		6.9	-
423	345	Pursuit	423		1.6	23.6
245	221	Scapa	237	- 2	3.3	16.9
34	26	Scottish Spcit	31	-	1.9	38.1
1148½	927½	Lonrho Conv	1112½	+ 3½	0.8	15.1
1133	980	Wolnhtsn RI	1130		2.7	17.4
280	255	Yorks Chem	269		4.0	15.6
363	306	Yule Catto	359		2.8	17.7

DISTRIBUTORS

100	87	ABI Lds	97		5.6	10.0
465	390	Adam & Harvey	390		6.3	5.1
18	14	Alexanders	17		2.4	-
109	98	Applegarth	105	+ 1	7.4	-
4	3½	Ass Br Eng	3½		2.1	-
629	565	BSS Group	629		3.9	18.1
38	25	Bandt	26	+ 1		
233	16	Bearing Pwr	21½		7.3	15.4
45	23	Bogod 'A'	45		2.0	14.9

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

0¾	0¾	Aaqia Utd	0¾			
398	298	Aaslubgesia	345	-	1.9	11.6
1056	896	Bishops Hill	1055	+ 2	3.5	22.2
348	311½	BTR†	344	- 1½	3.9	12.8
477	377	Bunzl	474	- ½	3.4	17.6
217	189	Berisford Int	210	- 6	1.8	20.4
125	111	Bibby (J)	122		5.9	9.8
63½	50½	Bhetley Inv	59½	- 1½	6.0	3.0
360	317	Charterh	358	- 1	3.4	12.2
307	253	Chesterton†	307		3.3	16.1
180	141	Cmall	180		6.4	11.1
284	204	DCC	258	- 4	2.7	16.7
140	130	Grampian Hldgt	134		9.7	14.9
277	215	Hanson	275	+ 2	7.7	9.7
172½	141½	Harrsn Crollck	146	-	7.7	11.6
439½	375½	Hutch Whamp	394½	- 4½	2.0	20.7
563½	441½	Jardine Math	542½		3.0	-
217½	174½	Lonrho	180½	- 1	3.1	21.4
189	152	Ml Mcclellan	178	- 1	4.2	17.0
476	463	Powell Duffryn	430	- 2	7.3	17.7
375	286	Evans Halshaw†	375		5.5	13.6
67	57	Pte Indmnt	61		6.8	-
313	248	Rnsfrst Gp	313		2.2	18.4
30	19½	Sandoe	29		3.7	11.6
64½	32½	Shpchmstrt	59½	- ½	2.1	39.6
84	64	Spencer	84	+ 1	3.6	14.1
379	343	Spencer	375		1.0	22.9
152	125	Tay Homes	152		5.8	13.9
175	115	Taylor Woodrw†	171		2.1	24.7
493	408	Tilbury Dougls	488		5.8	14.2
12	8	Transtechnology	8½			6.4
16	10½	Try Group	14½			-
183	74	Vibrogrnd	183		6.1	6.3
111	95	Wardmaze	105	- 2	6.4	9.7
53	38	Ward Hldgs	43		4.4	16.3
223	170	Westbury	204		3.6	15.1
8	4½	Wiggins	7½			51.6
190	167	Wilkin (C)†	187			3.0
473	354	Wilson Bowdn†	461			27
156	129	Wrapply 'D'	149	- 2	4.6	-

ELECTRICITY

737	591	East Midlands	624	- 10	5.9	8.7
873	643	London Elect	806	- 18	5.6	9.2
453	325	Midlands Elec	424	- 9	5.5	10.8
278	188	Northern Elec	257	- 4½	6.1	8.6
615	426	Nthmbrld Pwr	533	- 4	3.9	11.0
481	296	Nat Power PJP	408	- 5	3.8	11.0
724	585	Northern Elec	632	- 22	6.8	7.9
455	383	Nthn Ireland	433	- 7	4.2	9.6
562	457	Powergen	520	- 7	3.8	10.0
475	366	PowerGen (P/P)	404	- 4	3.8	10.0
372	318	Hydro-Elect	346	+ 1	5.2	9.5
403	340	Scottish Power	367	+ 1	4.9	10.8
910	780	Scottsh Elec	826	- 15	5.7	9.4
910	668	Yorkshire Elec	862	- 17	5.6	8.5

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

562	552	Acal	558		17	20.3
274	185	Acorn Comp	265	+ 8		
1245	818	Advanced	1210		0.9	31.5
218½	169½	Aerotrad	194	+ 1	1.8	-
46	33	Arlent	45	+ 2	1.9	-
145½	110	Azlect	142½	- 1½	1.3	-
615	469	Aztec	613		0.7	27.3
362	276	BICC†	360	+ 3	4.8	-
223	195	Beales Hunter	210		6.2	21.3
505	445	Black	503	-	3.2	14.7
449	383	Bowthorpe†	444	+ 1	2.7	19.3
34½	22	Bulgin (AF) 'A'	27½	- 1	2.2	19.8
133	123	Dal. Microp	123		6.5	14.2
38	24	Channel Hldgs	35		4.7	15.2
30½	23½	Chloride	29½	- ½	1.5	35.8
73	66	Clydeite	70		5.6	11.9
517	444	Crosby	477½		3.8	12.1
1135	990	Data Sc Sys	1055	+ 2	2.5	12.9
464	376	Delta†	442	- 1	4.5	22.1
490	403	Domino	421		3.9	30.0
75	54	Dowding Mlhst	73		3.4	17.2
3500	1541	Druck	3500	+100	0.5	37.5
3390½	2616½	Electrocm 'B'	3167½	+140½	3.8	8.8
38½	30½	Ernest	36		0.7	22.6
1516½	1135	Ericsson 'B'	1385½	- 25	1.2	25.2
87	65	Ferranti	80	- 1	4.4	14.8
630	542	Filtronic	612	- 2	1.5	24.4
695	533	Fenry Group	663	+ 1	1.5	24.0
497	388	Filtronic Com	388	- 5	1.1	61.5
783	620	Forward Gp	775	- 5	1.1	33.3
107	78	Foseheil Tech†	78		1.3	10.4
481	341	GEC	351½		4.1	16.4
137	114	Gresbyt†	132		6.2	22.5
116	98	Ind Control♥	115		3.9	24.2
39½	23	Inspek	33	-	3.0	41.9
127	91	Ind Scot Resd	127	+ 3	1.6	-
57	34	IPA Ind	54		4.7	12.5
290	260	MTL Instr†	280		2.1	17.0
168	108	Magnum Power©	127	- 3		
268	248	Meinke-Sw	251	+ 1	2.3	17.9
67½	48	Micrnsftbc	60½	- ½	1.8	19.1
472	340	Mktr	446	- 9		
61	36	Neotronics	61	- 3	1.7	-
488	405	Oxford Inst	472	+ 1	1.6	18.7
332	255	Pacer Systems♥	325		2.2	-
173	156	Sabre†	169	- 1	7.2	10.5
238	198	Sarclad	229	- 1	4.6	15.6
2726½	2309½	Philips Lmp nv	2342½	- 37½	2.7	6.2
185	141	Picnnics©	169	+ 2	4.0	-
198	146	Prescot†	184		2.4	19.2
45	33	Prestwich	44	+ 1		22.7
1148	710	Psiion†	1135	+ 15	0.6	-
348	263	Racal Elec	336	+ 1	2.0	25.9
103	78	Reliance	98		3.1	19.9
281	229	Rainford	276	- 1	0.9	14.6
507	380	Renishaw	488		1.8	19.2
6	1½	Rodime	3½	-		
387	295	Rostron	286	- 1	2.6	-
417	317	Sarwcrest	414		2.3	23.9
86	62	Schrmbrgr†	87		1.7	20.8
43	27	Scandtronc©	31		0.6	-
3966½	3003½	TDK	3662½	+ 75	0.9	-
16	6	TDS Circuits©	15½			15.2
101	94	TBI	98		3.6	11.5
165	136	TLG	151	- 3	2.9	16.3
79	59	Tadpole Tech	63			4.8
134	102	Telemetr†	108	- 2	1.7	29.1
870	693	Telspec†	755	- 33	0.9	-
245	221	Thorpe Fitz	235		2.2	14.1
32	20	Total Systems	32			20.0
390	302	Tunstall	388		1.4	17.5
710	476	Unitech	676	- 12	1.5	22.0
16½	12½	Varity	14½	- ½	1.3	16.0
273	233	Vero	240		2.7	-
405	383	Volex	426		1.5	15.6
180	135	Wilcom	154		3.7	37.5

ENGINEERING

293	277	ABM	285		2.8	68.2
99½	73	APV†	94		3.6	27.0
99	70	ASW†	91		5.5	-
448	386	Alumasc	446		2.2	19.7
175	133	Altric	163	- 2	3.5	16.3
470	370	Ash & Lacy†	465		1.5	20.9
638	538	Aths Equip†	618	+ 50	3.4	21.6
168	121	Aprchre Metal†	123		5.6	-
351	284	BBA†	332	- 4	3.3	25.7
131	101	BHR Group	131		3.8	17.4
151	133	BMO	153		5.7	14.8
145	108	Babcock	114		2.9	97.2
7½	6	Bailey (CH)	7			-
140	96	Barnes (Charles)†	136	-	2.3	20.4
96	75	Beckingt	96		1.4	-
96	86	Bekaert	91		4.6	11.8
1007	765	Bemrose	1000		2.4	50.3
443	384	Morgan Cblet	436	+ 3	4.0	17.3
298	254	Morris Ashby	298		3.0	15.1
58	46	Norgrand	47		4.3	9.9
27	12½	Old Ian	26	+ 1		
458	374	Powerscreen	451		2.3	16.7
6	4	Prospect Inds	5½	-	3.0	-

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

148	109	Ackrod	146		6.7	41.7
290	265	Airflow Stream	288		3.5	6.7
638	473	Aqua Robber	626	+ 28	3.6	15.1
81½	57½	BSG	75½	+ ½	5.5	13.4
340	273	Bescorgt	339	+ 1	2.4	14.9
29	19½	Bagstaff	29		3.4	-
252	175	Bhf	234		2.4	13.8
465	431	First Tech	465		2.0	18.6
897	778	GKN†	865	- 11	3.1	17.8
3600	3112½	General Mtr	3568½	- 43½	2.2	-
1850½	1312½	Honda Mtr	1470½	+ 10½	0.6	-
502	386	Lucas	487	- 2	3.1	-
445	405	Lucas	445		6.5	-
242½	172	Lucas†	237	- ½	3.8	30.3
119½	91	Multimast	115	- 2	3.5	16.7
148	145	Nelson Hurst†	147		4.9	13.9
173	108	Shield Diag	173		3.5	13.7
168	135	Simon Engin†	157	- 3		
187	152	T & N†	171	+ 2	4.4	10.9
433	351	Trinity Hldgs	388		3.6	27

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

429	355	AB Food	376	- 6	2.9	13.4
284	250	Acatos & Hutch	250	-	4.5	20.5
53	43½	Albert Fisher†	52	+ 1	9.0	13.0
262	231	Apthorpe (L G)	258		4.8	10.9
36	31	Richards Group	33		3.6	9.8
32	21	Berisford Int	29		3.4	-
897	760	Bibby	833	- 18	1.5	27.9
84	70	Booker Tate	77		1.9	26.3
78	58	Booth (J)	77		1.9	20.3
68	54	Bovis	68		1.4	44.0
1568½	1187½	Bss' B'	1516½	- 3½	3.4	-
1112	923	Bunker Engr	1097		4.2	20.2
245	196	Burtd-Pmr†	212	- 4	1.8	21.9
897	760	Bstns	833	- 18	1.5	20.4
84	70	Staxton Engr	77		1.9	25.3
278	230	Ste Hnsbrd	270		1.9	19.4
721	622	Cadbury Schwpp	685	- 9	2.7	20.4
734	593	Carrs-Carrot	733		2.1	21.7
324	247	Sterling Ind	323		3.0	15.6
561	456	TM	551	+ 1	2.2	21.3
97	82	Tinsley (EIC)	92		2.2	13.5
567	482	Cadbury-Schwpp	482½	- 3½	3.4	-
83	65	Canadian Pizza	81	- 1	7.4	13.6
348	310	Carr's Milling	335		3.5	12.1
112	92	Cauldron	98		2.9	12.6
31	21	Berisford Int	29		3.4	-
897	760	Bibby	833	- 18	1.5	27.9
84	70	Bovis Group	77		1.9	26.3
78	58	Booth (J)	77		1.9	20.3
68	54	Bovis	68		1.4	44.0
1568½	1187½	Bss' B'	1516½	- 3½	3.4	-
1112	923	Bunker Engr	1097		4.2	20.2
245	196	Burtd-Pmr†	212	- 4	1.8	21.9
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567	482	Cadbury-Schwpp	482½	- 3½	3.4	-
83	65	Canadian Pizza	81	- 1	7.4	13.6
348	310	Carr's Milling	335		3.5	12.1
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31	21	Berisford Int	29		3.4	-
897	760	Bibby	833	- 18	1.5	27.9
84	70	Bovis Group	77		1.9	26.3
78	58	Booth (J)	77		1.9	20.3
68	54	Bovis	68		1.4	44.0
1568½	1187½	Bss' B'	1516½	- 3½	3.4	-
1112	923	Bunker Engr	1097		4.2	20.2
245	196	Burtd-Pmr†	212	- 4	1.8	21.9
897	760	Bstns	833	- 18	1.5	20.4
84	70	Staxton Engr	77		1.9	25.3
278	230	Ste Hnsbrd	270		1.9	19.4
721	622	Cadbury Schwpp	685	- 9	2.7	20.4
734	593	Carrs-Carrot	733		2.1	21.7
324	247	Sterling Ind	323		3.0	15.6
561	456	TM	551	+ 1	2.2	21.3
97	82	Tinsley (EIC)	92		2.2	13.5

HEALTHCARE

1071	818	Aroxsham	1028	- 12	2.1	22.1
83	47	Amagos	54			-
165	120	Accac Nursg	133		2.9	10.3
540	315	Bespak	435		2.9	30.0
540½	349½	Biocompg Ind▲	349½	- 8½		
97	74	Cam Hs	96		1.0	19.9
130	102	Cobas	123	+ 2		
291	243	Community Hl	289½		4.0	14.4
31	24½	CrestaCare†	30		3.7	-
21	17	Emerging	20

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UCL HOSPITALS

FOCUS

Jeremy Laurance introduces a three-page report with a look at University College London's pioneering Cruciform Project

Teaming up for discovery

A transformation in the world of academic research is unfolding in London. A new Institute of Strategic Research devoted to understanding the basic mechanisms that underlie the major Western killers of heart disease, cancer and neuro-degenerative disorders is being planned.

It is not the size of the new institute that makes it remarkable, although with 300 scientists it will be one of the largest in the country. What will set the Cruciform Project apart from other research institutes will be the way it is organised. In place of separate departments, the institute will operate as a large multidisciplinary team working towards a common objective — using basic molecular science to unlock the secrets of the late 20th century's commonest diseases.

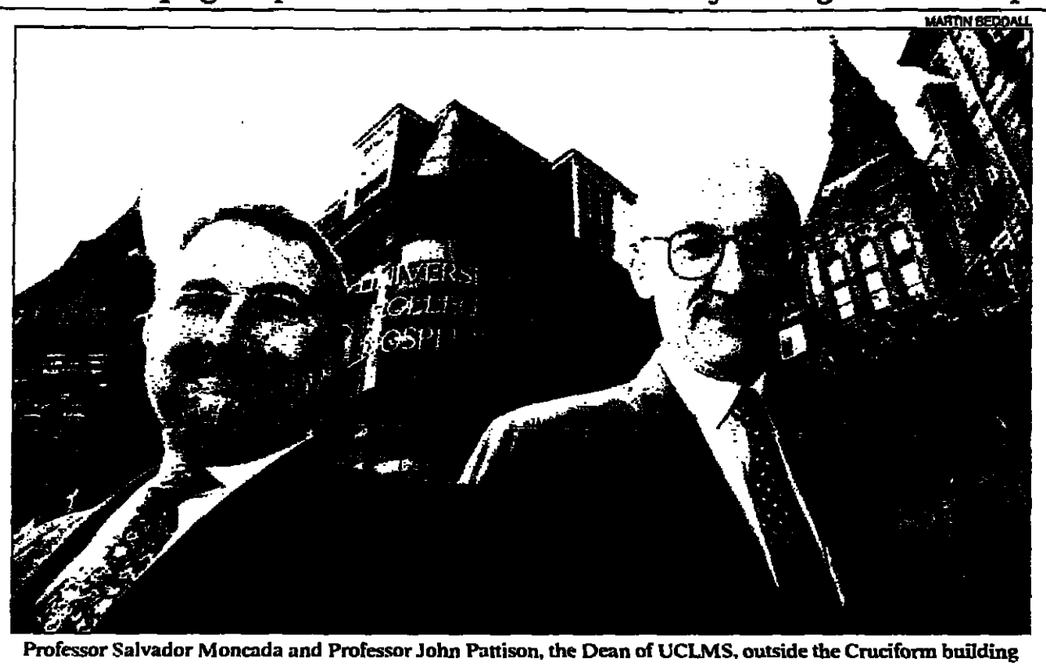
The institute will be part of University College, London, and have a unique role in bridging the divide between academia and the drug industry. It will occupy the Cruciform Building of the former University College Hospital covering 16,000 square metres on four floors.

The £41.5 million cost of buying and refurbishing it will be met in part by an £11.5 million grant from the Wellcome Trust. With an opening date of spring 1998, its annual running costs are expected to be £15 million, half from grants and half from industry.

The building, which dates from 1905, was excellent for combatting infection in the days before antibiotics but poses difficulties for someone trying to plan a laboratory with the maximum degree of interaction. Professor Salvador Moncada, director of the institute, believes that cross fertilisation is the key to progress in science.

"The problems we face now — heart disease, cancer, Alzheimer's disease — require a multidisciplinary approach. Many of the molecular mechanisms that underlie these conditions are similar and we want to go for molecular targets. That is the direction in which progress is likely to be most rapid."

This approach, Professor Moncada acknowledges, challenges preconceptions. Those who join the institute will not only have to be excellent scientists, they will also need to be philosophically convinced that the joint approach is the best way of working.



MARTIN BEDDALL

Professor Salvador Moncada and Professor John Pattison, the Dean of UCLMS, outside the Cruciform building

Professor Moncada was born in Honduras and did his medical training in El Salvador before coming to England in 1970. In the mid-1970s he joined Wellcome, becoming UK research director in 1986. He left to set up the new institute at the end of last year. He knows the pressures on drug-company laboratories to find a product that can be marketed tomorrow. As the companies switch their emphasis from basic research to development — getting a molecule and running with it fast to produce a new drug — they need support in basic science.

"We believe we can fill that niche. Having been in industry, we can talk about an idea and progress it to the drug prototype. Industrial partners can then pick it up and make a medicine out of it."

Professor Moncada's best-known work is on nitric oxide, a pollutant which, it turns out, has a key role in an extraordinary range of living processes, including cell regulation, blood pressure control, memory, gastro-intestinal function, airways diameter and penile erection. He says: "It is just as if we had found the big key in biology and re-opened understanding in many different fields."

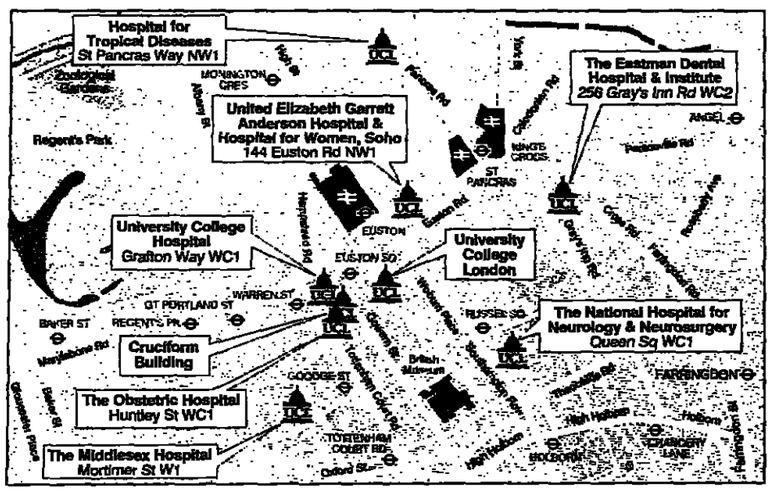
THE MAGNIFICENT SIX

TO THE layman, organisational changes involving University College London, the hospitals that co-operate and collaborate with it, and their institutes, seem not unlike musical chairs. There has long been a cross-fertilisation between them in the treatment of patients, the teaching of medical staff, and academic research.

In broad terms, however, they are regrouping as follows. Six hospitals have come together under one banner and comprise the UCL Hospitals NHS Trust: the Eastman Dental Hospital, the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, the Hospital for Tropical Diseases, the Middlesex, the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, and University College Hospital (UCH), which includes the Obstetric Hospital. The six hospitals all have good cross-border links with neighbouring NHS trusts — which include Great Ormond Street, the Whittington and the Royal Free.

On the academic side, the two medical schools of the Middlesex and UCH have merged to become part of the university, while the medical school at the Royal Free is set to join them. Some research institutes associated with UCL Hospitals are in the process of phasing into a complete link-up with the university: for example, the Institute of Neurology and Neurosciences, based at the National, is now affiliated to the university and will become part of it in August 1997.

Some NHS doctors hold joint appointments, set up between hospitals both within the UCL Hospitals Trust and with neighbouring NHS trusts, while other doctors hold joint appointments with the university and the NHS.



Research put into practice

The idea of research scientists being able to take their findings through to practical application in a seamless transfer of knowledge is an exciting one, *Pat Blair writes*. It is a concept that is now possible thanks to the introduction of the Cruciform Project.

The concept has the backing of UCL and its medical school. Professor Salvador Moncada has drawn in four other principal investigators and their teams, all eminent in their fields. Two, like the professor, are basic scientists. Professor John Garthwaite was the first to demonstrate the role of nitric oxide as a messenger in the brain and Professor Ken Powell, formerly head of biology at Wellcome, is known for his work on viruses, especially herpes viruses and HIV.

The other two are also clinical doctors who still see patients. Professor John Martin, British Heart Foundation professor of cardiovascular studies, formerly combined a clinical career at King's College with the post of head of cardiovascular research at the Wellcome Laboratories, and Professor Patrick Vallance is head of clinical pharmacology at UCL.

> A force that could better the best in the world

The project is a formidable force and one that will help to draw scientific teams, and their funding, back to Britain from overseas. Fifty scientists are already at work and Professor John Pattison, Dean of UCL Medical School, says he anticipates little difficulty in finding more.

In the past, in Britain, there has been innovation but also problems with practical applications, says Professor Moncada. "We want to bridge the gap, and if any group can do it, we can. I came with an idea. John Pattison liked it, and Derek Roberts (the university Provost) was enthusiastic. Both have welcomed us and created the conditions to make it happen."

Their laboratories will be open to medical school and hospital researchers. The ground floor and basement of the building will become a world-class education centre for the medical school.

The proposed 600-bed NHS hospital, to be situated alongside the Cruciform building, is planned for 2001 and will provide the greater physical proximity needed between academic research and clinical practice.

"The medical school has an excellent relationship with the hospital and we are confident that will get even stronger with the Cruciform Project and the new hospital project coming to fruition," says Professor Pattison.

The UCL Hospitals Trust chairman, Sir Ronald Mason, himself a physicist, says: "My only insistence was that there should be a seamlessness between the clinical scientists and the clinicians. I knew if we had the clinical scientists working side by side with the clinicians who can take it into the ward, then you're getting as close as you can to the optimum way of translating research results into practice."

As the project develops, clinicians and scientists within UCL Hospitals and the other research institutes are beginning to look closely at ways in which they might be involved. If all goes according to plan Britain is likely to have a major new collaboration — a force that could equal or better the best in the world.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL ON ITS 250TH ANNIVERSARY (1746-1996)

University College London Hospitals in association with University College London Medical School congratulate the Middlesex Hospital and all staff, past and present, upon 250 years of medical progress in the delivery of treatment and care to patients, teaching to medical, nursing and paramedical students, and research into the causes of disease and their cure.

Well done to the Middlesex Hospital — Medical excellence in the heart of London

UCL HOSPITALS

UCL

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University College London Hospitals incorporates the Eastman Dental Hospital, The United Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital and Hospital for Women, Soho, the Hospital for Tropical Diseases, the Middlesex Hospital, the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, and University College Hospital.

Why heartache is good for you

Pat Blair reports on why working together is the answer to our understanding of how the body acts to protect itself from disease

Last week, two distinguished universities thousands of miles apart agreed to set up a joint chair of cardiovascular research: this month, the search will start for a candidate to fill the new post.

It has all been arranged by two men with international reputations, Derek Yellon, professor of cellular cardiology and head of the Hatter Institute, part of UCL, in London and Professor Lionel Opie, director of the University of Cape Town Heart Research Laboratories, in South Africa.

It is a matter of pride for the institute, set up only six years ago by Professor Yellon and Dr Malcolm Walker, consultant cardiologist and clinical director for cardiac services at University College Hospital (UCH). They envisaged a centre to encourage close links between practising doctors and basic scientists, believing that it was the way forward in heart research.

Since then, research work at the institute, which is housed in the UCH basement, has led to more than 90 published papers and abstracts.

The collaboration means that tissue taken from heart patients during operations, which once would have been discarded, is now sent to the laboratory.

This is helping in the search to understand how the heart protects itself from lethal attacks, a concept known as ischaemic pre-conditioning. Previously, it was thought that drugs used to treat the symptoms of angina were not only doing so but were also giving added protection to the heart. It is now believed that short bursts of angina can help to protect against a subsequent lethal heart attack.

"It is the most powerful form of protection that we know of to date," says Professor Yellon. "We now have to find out what is happening during these short bursts, what substances are being released, to see if we can mimic it with a drug. We're the first group actually to take it into the clinic and show that short bursts of angina given to patients undergoing coronary bypass surgery can protect the heart against a longer episode."

As a clinician, Dr Walker sees this as a potential for the future. Doctors, he said, had believed that heart pain due to a lack of blood supply must cause damage every time it happened. "This has made us look again. It may not be quite as stark and bleak as we thought. Such intrinsic protective mechanisms may mean that those events may get a heart prepared in case of a more major attack."

Professor Yellon says: "We have to listen to what the heart is trying to say and develop the therapy to mimic what's going on."

But cardiac services is not alone in its collaboration between hospital and university. Indeed, the independent specialist review of cancer services in the capital favoured developing the UCH/Middlesex unit because of "the range and quality of its research services", the presence of a large haematology service, and because it "would attract further high-calibre research funding, given the proximity of University College".

Professor Robert Souhami, professor of clinical oncology and director of research and development, believes that in the face of stiff competition it was their joint approach that in 1994 won them the Queen's Anniversary Prize for their contribution to cancer research and treatment.

The hospital and university have been a major influence in the development of high-dose chemotherapy and in using techniques such as bone-marrow and stem-cell transplants — the haematology department has carried out more than 1,000 transplants.

The clinical cancer department is a key centre in Europe for the treatment of primary cancer in bone, and has led the way in treating teenagers, starting the clinical specialty of cancer in adolescence. It is one of the major contributors to national studies using randomised trials of cancer treatment for lungs, breast, ovaries and testes.

"On the purely laboratory scientific side, we have been a major player in the field of understanding how anti-cancer drugs work, and how they attack the DNA in cancer cells," says Professor Souhami.

Dr Tony Goldstone, the hospitals' medical director and clinical director for clinical haematology, says that in haematology, it has always been an integrated university and NHS department, with a total mixture of staff at senior level. The research focus into how the blood works relates closely to the disorders such as leukaemias and lymphomas.

"It's a very close link indeed between the basic approach and the bedside, perhaps the shortest chain of all in terms of the effect of what's going on in the laboratory and in patient care." In blood cancers, he says, almost every patient is on a research-based protocol.

He is proud of how successful haematology has been in the new NHS marketplace. "We really understand the issues of the market and have built up a major practice in what, fortunately, are rare diseases — leukaemia and lymphoma," he says.

"We have had to compete for years to get our patient-referral base. And this has made us aware, in central London in particular, that you have to be better to keep up."

PHOTOGRAPHS: MARTIN BEDDALL



In the lab: Derek Yellon, professor of cellular cardiology and head of the Hatter Institute and Laboratory at UCLH



On the ward: Dr Jean McEwan, consultant cardiologist. UCLH encourages links between doctors and scientists

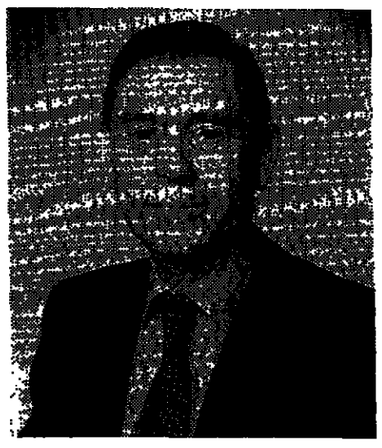
PIONEERING CANCER CLINIC

ENGLAND'S first adolescent cancer unit, which has led to others starting up around the country, was opened in UCLH. Now, says Dr Tony Goldstone, the hospital's medical director, the aim is to develop an area in the Middlesex to provide a 14 to 18-bed adolescent unit, treating a variety of diseases and conditions, including juvenile rheumatological diseases. "We hope this will happen before the end of this financial year," he says.

It will provide social, psychological and education support for young people who may already have spent a lot of their childhood in or associated with hospitals. "They and their families have often led very stressful lives," he says. "The unit has got to be in an environment that is a bit less rigid than most hospital environments — the adolescent equivalent of the playroom in a paediatric ward, with computers and video games rather than little cars to ride round on."

It will bridge the gaps between paediatric and adult services. "As children grow up it is widely known that their follow-up, spread over a variety of hospitals in small numbers, is not very good. We want to develop that area as a major interest of the UCLH NHS Trust," Dr Goldstone says.

UCL HOSPITALS



We are celebrating and giving thanks today to the Middlesex Hospital and all staff, past and present, for their invaluable contribution to the health of the capital over the last 250 years, and to progress in medical science. The Middlesex is one important forerunner to University College London Hospitals and continues the tradition of excellence in the health services we provide to patients, the teaching we give to medical, nursing and paramedical students and the research which translates into quality of care. On the 1st of April, 1996 we welcomed the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery and the Eastman Dental Hospital into our Trust, which had included the Middlesex Hospital, University College Hospital, the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital and Hospital for Women, Soho and the Hospital for Tropical Diseases. This network of famous hospitals is enabling us to build on existing strengths and create new opportunities for achieving an acute hospital group and medical networks that will stand comparison with any institution, nationally or internationally. The establishment of the Institute for Strategic Medical Research in the Cruciform building, reflects the close relationship with University College and its Medical School. The realisation of our plans to bring most of our services together onto one site, adjacent to the Cruciform development, will provide our patients and staff with modern facilities they have for so long been waiting and which they so much deserve. The UCL Hospitals take their place at the forefront of healthcare provision in London as we look confidently into the new Millennium.

Ronald Mason.

Sir Ronald Mason KCB, FRS,
Chairman, University College London Hospitals NHS Trust

The University College London Hospitals, St. Martin's House, 140 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 9LN
Telephone 0171-387 9300

Seeing how the brain works

NEUROLOGY AND NEUROSURGERY

Last month, in Queen Square, central London, the official opening of a £25-million functional brain imaging laboratory was held. Funded by the Wellcome Trust, the laboratory is recognised as the world's leading centre for seeing how the brain works.

That the opening attracted 300 people from around the globe is a measure of the standing of the 300-bed National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery and the Institute of Neurology, the academic institution with which it works closely.

"A pivotal role as one of the most important centres for treatment, training and research in Europe" is how the National was described three years ago in a report by an independent team reviewing the future of specialist services in London.

In the National's case, the specialist services are clinical neurosciences — the investigation, treatment and care of patients suffering from diseases of the nervous system. These include stroke, the aftermath of head injury, cerebral palsy, tumours, inherited diseases, migraine and multiple sclerosis.

The hospital draws patients from around the nation: Professor David Marsden, Dean of the Institute of Neurology, says it has contracts with every health authority.

A third of patients come from within the North Thames region — "we have the direct responsibility of providing the neurological and neurosurgical services", he says. The two thirds come equally, "with the uncommon diseases", from the other Thames regions and the rest of Britain. Together, hospital and institute account for between a third and a half of all the UK's research in the field, and form one of the world's biggest centres for clinical neuroscience.

With an annual budget of £80 million, and 400 research clinical staff, their pedigree is impressive: "We have a whole collection of major themes which drive the hospital and the institute both in clinical work and research work," Professor Marsden says.

> Patients come from around the nation

Britain's biggest epilepsy surgery centre, it also runs the National Epilepsy Society's centre at Chalfont St Giles, Buckinghamshire — Britain's referral centre for difficult epilepsies for chronic assessment and care.

It is helping to pioneer surgical treatment of advanced Parkinson's disease, in which surgery may be the alternative answer to drugs.

It is also the reference centre for the European Union's multiple sclerosis (MS) team: all the results of trials of MS treatments are fed back to Queen Square for assessment.

MS provides an example of the partnership between the institute and the hospital. Professor Marsden says: "Up until the last four or five years, nothing could be done to prevent the repeated episodes and progressive deterioration." Treatments have now been designed which may affect the fundamental process of MS, to stop the repeated attacks and increasing disability. Although the treatment was not devised at Queen Square — it derived from physics — the method of assessing it by magnetic resonance imaging, which shows the actual episodes of inflammation of the brain, was conceived there.

With the Royal Free Hospital, the National runs a joint peripheral nerve and muscle service. It also has close links with Great Ormond Street children's hospital, with which it shares genetic testing: National doctors hold clinics at Great Ormond Street, while the latter's doctors teach paediatric neurology to National neurologists.

For teenagers with disabling neurological disease, the two hospitals are trying to set up an adolescent unit to bridge the gap between child and adult services.

With the National's entry last month into UCL Hospitals Trust, the trust has inherited one of the world's biggest centres for clinical neuroscience. Meanwhile, the National has gained a new security in being part of a development in treatment, teaching and research that could set Britain alight.

Only the best under one roof

THE NEW HOSPITAL

London has been accused of having too many hospitals. But in the year 2001, if things go to plan, it will have three fewer — and to replace them, a new 600-bed hospital.

In a tough economic and political climate, it is no mean feat to have won Whitehall agreement in principle that the £115 million project can go ahead. Yet that is what the University College Hospitals NHS Trust has achieved.

This month, specifications are being sent to the three shortlisted consortia invited to provide bids to build the new hospital for the trust. Negotiations would start towards the end of this year and a scheme should be put to the Treasury around next January.

If all goes according to plan, the new hospital will contain, on a single campus, four of the six hospitals that now form the trust: the four being the Middlesex, the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, the Hospital for Tropical Diseases and University College Hospital. The other two, the National and the Eastman Dental Hospital, will remain where they are.

"Even if you think there are too many hospitals in London, the way to go about things is not to wait until the old ones fall down. That is not in anybody's interests," says Charles Marshall, the trust's chief executive.

"We have a number of facilities that are ageing and very expensive to run and maintain. There is no evidence that there aren't patients who need them — quite the contrary. We can provide more of those patients with a service to a much higher quality and for less money if we replace the facilities."

Under the Government's private finance initiative, the trust is seeking someone to build and run the building, and would entertain proposals to run the hotel services — catering, portering, cleaning, maintenance — which are already required to go to tender every few years.

But Mr Marshall makes clear that, as far as the trust is concerned: "The clinical and diagnostic services — direct and indirect patient care — are not part of the deal. We've been very clear that as a trust we exist to run health services."

All the institutions which the trust proposes to bring together have gained national, even worldwide eminence in their patient care, treatment, medical teaching and academic research.

"From both the hospital and the academic aspects, the trust is bringing together a group of particularly eminent institutions, not merely to give them greater security — which it does — but also the opportunity to share overheads and deal with year-to-year volatility in contract income," says Mr Marshall.

The result should mean that specialties gain a greater degree of security, the size of the set-up to which they belong providing a cushion against further changes in health care provision and enabling the trust to take a long-term view. With their links to University College London, an opportunity should be created for synergy in clinical treatment and academic research "to create something that is larger than the sum of its parts".

"The object is to place these institutions in the sort of shape — both physical and in terms of skills and attitudes — to enable them to be at least as eminent and relevant 50 years from now as they have been thus far in their history," says Mr Marshall.

"In the end we ought to be at the disposal of the GP and the district hospitals, rather than being an ivory tower in central London."

هكذا من الأصل



هكذا من الأصل

An honourable new beginning

Pat Blair looks at the history of a hospital renowned for its teaching, nursing and medical advances

PHOTOGRAPHS: MARTIN BEDDALL



Giving thanks: the Rev David Mason, chaplain of the Middlesex Hospital Chapel, which opened on Christmas Day, 1891

Today about 500 people will attend a service in St Martin's *in the Fields* to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Middlesex, one of the oldest hospitals in London and renowned for the quality of its nursing care, teaching and medical advances. Only six years after Roentgen discovered X-rays, for example, it pioneered their clinical use.

On November 11, 1746, the Middlesex Hospital was formally named, having opened the year before as the Middlesex Infirmary. George II was on the throne and Pitt the Elder was Prime Minister.

The hospital opened with 18 beds. Eleven years later, it moved to a newly built hospital with 64 beds. From the beginning, the Middlesex admitted medical students: in 1757, they paid 15 guineas a year to be resident surgical pupils.

In the early 19th century, the history of the Middlesex became linked with that of University College London, which sought to arrange for medical students to receive clinical training at the Middlesex. While hospital governors were considering this, the university jumped the gun and advertised in *The Times* for medical students, citing attendance at the Middlesex. Affronted, the governors declined the role of hospital to the medical school.

For six years, UCL medical school had no attached hospital, until in 1834 it opened the North London Hospital (to become University College Hospital). At the same time, the Middlesex opened its own medical school. It proved to be the start of a rivalry involving medical and academic politics that continued for decades.

During the late 1800s, the Middlesex continued to expand: bed numbers grew, an outpatients department was built, a nurses' home and, in 1890, its chapel, now a listed building. In 1896, the medical school and hospital amalgamated and investment was made in an up-to-date school.

With the advent of the NHS in 1948, medical school and hospital became legally separate, although they co-operated as closely as ever. The physicians and surgeons, who until then had been honorary, unpaid staff, became salaried consultants.

It was probably the 1974 NHS reorganisation, however, that caused greatest upset with the abolition of the board of governors. Eight years later came another reorganisation, abolishing one management tier and bringing the Middlesex and University College Hospital under one administrative district.

Since then, there has been a constant process of change and amalgamation of services. At the same time, the medical schools of the two hospitals have grown closer: in 1987 they became one, The University College London Medical School.

With the introduction of self-governing trusts, in 1994 the Middlesex became part of UCL Hospitals NHS Trust. By last year plans were launched to replace the Middlesex with a 600-bed acute teaching hospital. This month those proposals go out to tender.

It is an honourable new beginning, 250 years after the Middlesex first opened its doors to "the sick and lame of Soho".

CHRONOLOGY

1746: Middlesex opens.
1757: Moves to its present site.
1774: Students form the Medical Society, second oldest in the UK.
1768: West wing opens.
1780: East wing opens.
1825: University College seeks formal links: rejected.
1834: North London Hospital (University College Hospital) opens.
1835: Middlesex Medical School opens.
1925: "Crumbling" Middlesex forced to close.
1935: Rebuilt hospital reopens, with 715 beds.
1948: Health Service established.
1974: NHS reorganisation; hospital board abolished.
1982: Middlesex and University College Hospital are brought under one administrative NHS district.
1987: First entry to the single school of medicine, The University College London Medical School.
1991: The NHS marketplace is established.
1994: Middlesex becomes part of a "shadow" NHS Trust, in preparation for full trust status.
1995: Plans launched to replace the Middlesex Hospital with a 600-bed acute teaching hospital.
1996: The UCL Hospitals NHS Trust encompasses six hospitals.

SPECIALIST HOSPITALS

IF YOU return from the Tropics with a rare fever, develop an unusual mouth condition or want to see a woman specialist, your local general hospital may be unable to help — but UCL Hospitals can.

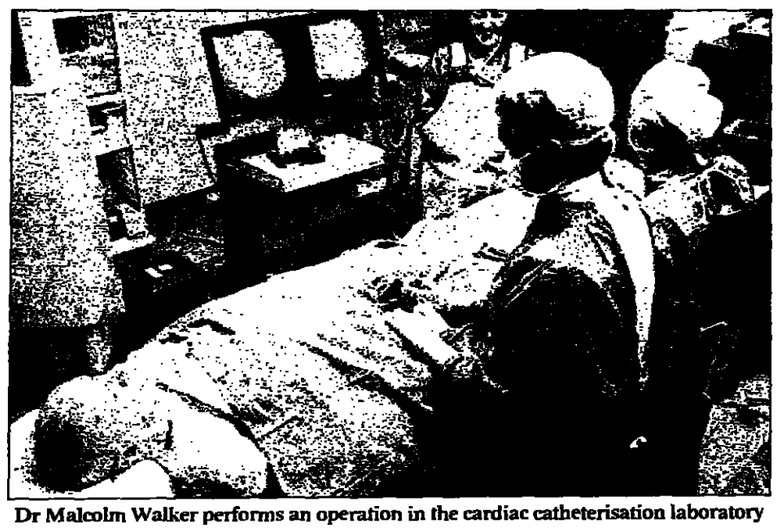
Three hospitals in the group — the Eastman Dental Hospital, the Hospital for Tropical Diseases and the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital — are acknowledged experts in their specialties.

The Eastman, one of the largest specialist oral health and research centres in Europe, trains dental nurses, hygienists and technicians, and provides further education for dentists.

The Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital has long been known for its treatment of women by women, and UCL Hospitals has preserved that concept. In fact the group devotes a great deal of energy and resources to women's health, from genetic counselling to maternity and neonatal care.

The 25-cot neonatal unit has helped babies with birthweights as low as 500 grams to survive: the youngest survivor was born at only 23 weeks.

At the Hospital for Tropical Diseases, Dr Peter Chiodini is the NHS's only consultant parasitologist. The hospital also houses the UK's only consultant leprosy specialist, Dr Diana Lockwood. It has close links with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.



Dr Malcolm Walker performs an operation in the cardiac catheterisation laboratory

EMERGENCIES

Flood alert: how a hospital coped with evacuation

It must be every hospital manager's nightmare. The beds are full, post-operative patients are recovering, pre-operative patients are arriving — yet the entire hospital must be evacuated.

It happened at University College Hospital a few weeks ago, when the water main burst in the boiler-room, submerging all the boilers and part of the stand-by generator. There was no heating or hot water: had there been a power cut, there would have been no electricity.

Within hours of taking the decision to evacuate, however, all the hospital's patients — including tiny babies in its renowned neonatal unit — had been decamped.

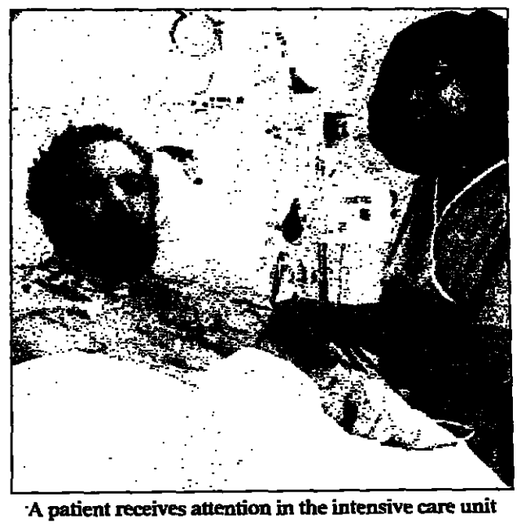
On any day there are normally between 20 and 30 patients ready for discharge and a similar number who have been admitted in preparation for operations. All of them were sent home. Those due to come in were asked not to, and the London Ambulance Service was asked to take emergency cases elsewhere for a while.

Maternity patients moved to the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital (EGA), to a ward that was not in use. "In the course of that day, we evacuated 202 in-patients from UCH, largely to the Middlesex, the EGA and the Hospital for Tropical Diseases," says Charles Marshall, the trust's chief executive. Babies, some in ventilators, were shipped out to Great Ormond Street and St Mary's. "To my surprise, from being 95 per cent full when we made the decision that we had to evacuate, by 9pm — 10 hours later — we had everybody accommodated," says Mr Marshall.

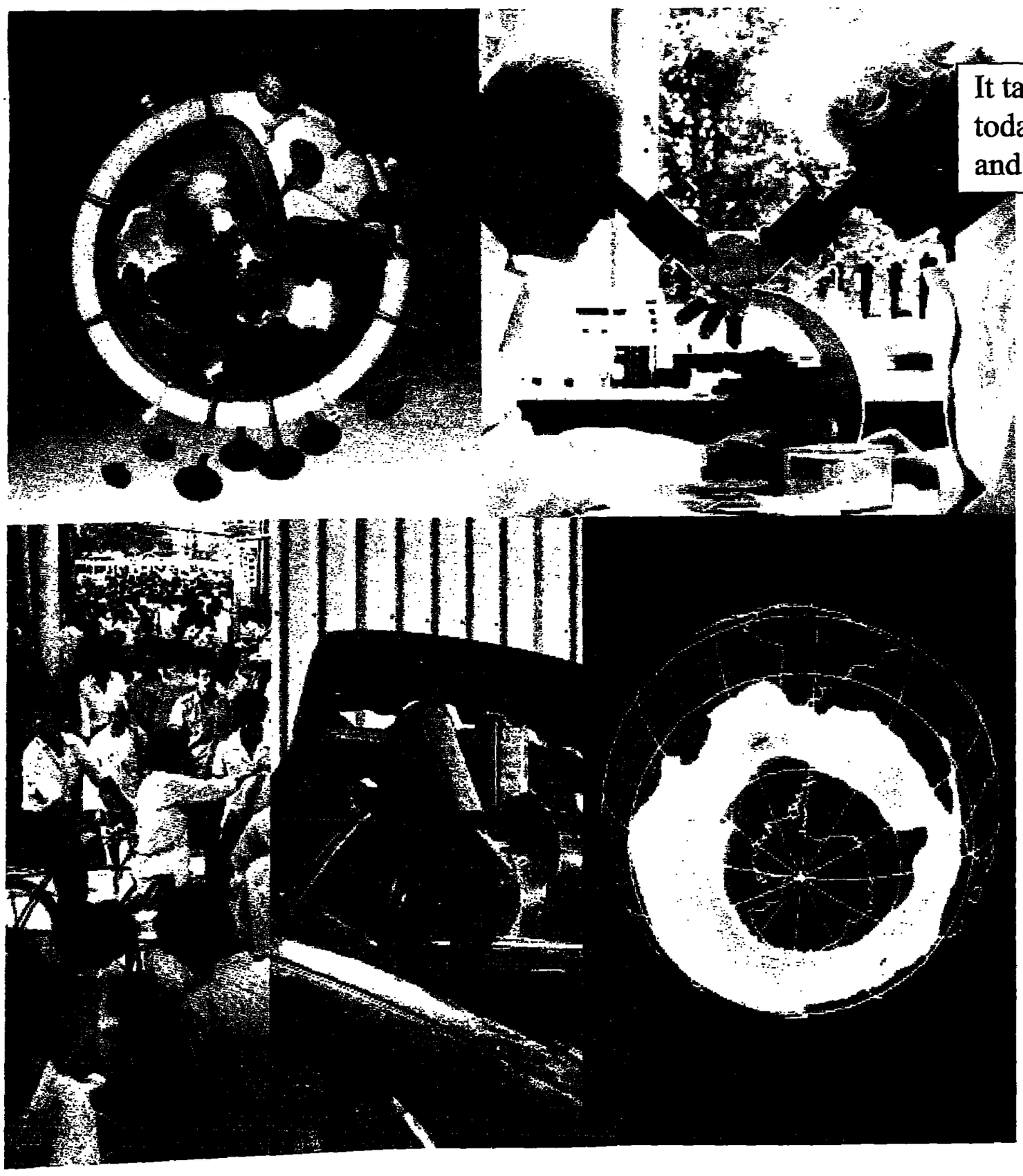
To the chief executive, it was very reassuring to know that the hospital system would be able to cope with a major accident. UCH is, after all, one of the main central London hospitals on call for large-scale emergencies, such as the King's Cross fire.

"Even in a major accident, you would not expect to have to cope with 200 admissions to hospital in the course of a few hours — although you might have more than that as casualties," Mr Marshall says.

He is proud of how everyone coped. "It went like clockwork. It was astonishing."



A patient receives attention in the intensive care unit



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Time runs from date of demand

Boot v Boot
Before Lord Justice Leggatt, Lord Justice Waite and Sir Iain Glidewell
[Judgment April 19]

A claim on a contract of loan, *which satisfied the conditions provided* in section 6(2) of the Limitation Act 1980, namely no provision for a fixed payment date and omission of any provision making the loan repayable on demand, was not caught by the six-year time bar imposed by section 5, so that time ran from the date of any written demand for repayment rather than from the date of the loan.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing the appeal of the plaintiff, Colin Boot, against the judgment of Judge Cotterill on April 12 1995, in Taunton County Court when he allowed the appeal of the defendant, Pauline Boot, against the dismissal by District Judge J. Turner of the defendant's application to strike out the plaintiff's claim on the ground that it was statute-barred by section 5 of the 1980 Act.

Mr Jonathan Holl-Allen for the *plaintiff; Mr John Isherwood for* the defendant.

LORD JUSTICE WAITE said that the plaintiff agreed to sell a property in Ilfracombe, occupied by his son, and daughter-in-law, *the defendant, for* £33,000 in 1983; £8,000 of which was by way of loan by the plaintiff secured by a promissory note signed by the couple. It read: "We ... hereby jointly and severally promise to pay to [the plaintiff] ... or to his order on demand the sum of [£8,000]."

The marriage failed, the couple separated and divorced and the plaintiff gave notice in 1990 demanding payment. When nothing *was paid he claimed against* the defendant alone payment of the moneys due. The property had been transferred into her sole name by court order following financial proceedings.

The defendant applied to have the claim struck out as being statute-barred. The district judge decided the case on the basis of common sense and found in favour of the plaintiff. On the defendant's appeal, Judge Cotterill found *that the loan claim was* statute-barred on the basis that the promissory note was caught by the exception provided in section 6(2).

His Lordship said that there was a principle of common law, well established by authority, that a contract of loan under which the money lent was expressed to become repayable to the lender on demand imposed an immediate obligation of repayment on the borrower from the outset, regardless of whether any demand for repayment was made or not: see *In re J. Brown's Estate; Brown v Brown* ([1893] 2 Ch 300, 304-305).

The Law Reform Committee, examining the law of limitation, in *its Final Report on Limitation of Actions* (21st report (1977) Cmnd 6923) noted that the principle was liable to lead to unfairness and commented that when loans were made within a family or between friends there was a risk of lenders suffering an inadvertent barring of their claims to repayment through an erroneous assumption that there were no penalties for forbearance and that the claim could be left outstanding without risk of extinguishment until repayment was formally demanded.

The committee recommended a change in the law, so that where no date for repayment was specified, time should not begin to run in *favour of the borrower* until the date on which a written demand for payment was first made.

The 1980 Act gave effect to the spirit of that recommendation, but preserved the rule in *Brown's* case by modifying its effect. The formula introduced by section 6(2) was undoubtedly elaborate, it was criticised as bewildering by both judges in the courts below, but the general scheme in sections 5 and 6 was reasonably clear.

The potential hardship of the rule was mitigated by causing the six-year time bar imposed by section 5 to run, in the case of loan contracts containing no provision for a fixed payment date and which omitted any effective provision making the loan repayable on demand, from the date of any written demand for repayment rather than from the date of the loan. Such loans could be called qualifying loans.

Special provision was made, however, for cases where such qualifying loans were supported by a collateral security taken from the borrower. In such cases, of which a promissory note was specifically instanced as an example, the terms of the collateral security had to be read notionally into the loan agreement itself and the agreement thus notionally established had in turn to be scrutinised to determine whether it satisfied the conditions of a qualifying loan.

If the conditions were satisfied, the benefit of section 6 was retained and time would not run until a demand was made. Thus the judge in the present case had a two-fold duty: first, to decide whether the loan was a qualifying loan. He correctly held that it was, as the conditions in section 6(2)(a) and (b) were satisfied.

Second, he was obliged to consider the effect of the collateral security afforded by the promissory note. The judge, in applying the words of the exception to section 6(2), accurately summarised the inquiry he had to make: the terms of the note *did* indeed satisfy both conditions of a qualifying loan.

From that finding only one possible conclusion, in his Lordship's judgment, could be drawn, namely that the loan agreement had retained its status as a qualifying loan under section 6 because the terms of the promissory note would not, if applied directly to repayment of the debt, exclude the application of section 6 to repayment of the debt.

The judge had come to the opposite conclusion; he thought that the exclusion operated and the protection afforded by section 6(2) was lost. The inference seemed to be that he mis-read the subsection by treating what was expressed as an exception to the application of section 6 as an exception to its non-application.

The judge's error might be explicable as a casualty of the kind that was liable to be suffered when the complexities of exception, exclusion and a deeming provision were all introduced together into a single subsection.

The correct conclusion was one *to which the judge himself would* have wished to come, that the loan satisfied section 6(2) and was supported by a collateral security which escaped the exclusion in the closing words of the subsection.

Sir Iain Glidewell agreed and Lord Justice Leggatt gave a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Bazley White & Co for Crosse & Crosse, Exeter; Annear, Ilfracombe.

Deciding adoption applications

In re H (a Minor) (Adoption application)
Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Lord Justice Thorpe
[Judgment May 3]

The task of the court in determining an adoption application was to be performed, not by applying a test based on other cases, but by having regard to all the statutory considerations.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment, dismissing an appeal by the Secretary of State for the Home Office against an adoption order made by Mr Justice Holman.

Miss Lisa Giovannetti for the *secretary of state; Miss Patricia* Scotland, QC and Mr Khadim Al'Hassan for the applicants; Mr Richard H. Bond for the Official Solicitor.

LORD JUSTICE THORPE said that the appeal concerned *two* related families and the arrangements they made for a child who was born on May 22, 1980 and was therefore nearly 16 years of age. By the appeal, the secretary of state challenged an adoption order made by the judge on November 13, 1995 in respect of the child and in favour of the applicants.

The applicants were in their late thirties. They came to the United Kingdom in the 1970s and married in 1978. They had both acquired United Kingdom citizenship and they had a settled life in Halifax. However, for 14 years after their marriage they struggled in vain to conceive a child. By 1992 they were *resigned to adoption.*

The child's natural parents were a related couple. By contrast they had a quiverful of children. The child in question was their sixth. The family lived in Pakistan, where the father had secure employment and the whole family a comfortable standard of living.

On July 21, 1992 the father arrived in England with the child and two other of his children for a family wedding in Halifax. The child's entry visa gave him permission to remain in the United Kingdom for six months as a visitor. On August 6, 1992 the child began to live with the applicants as their son and had so remained with them ever since.

Those circumstances and that chronology gave rise to many *questions and some* suspicions. However, the circumstances were fully investigated by the judge, who heard the applicants give oral evidence and accepted them as witnesses of truth.

The family arrangement was subsequently explained by the child's mother: "In Pakistan when a couple have no children and ask for one of yours you just give one as long as you know they are good people. God has given us so many *children and they have none.*"

In March 1993 the Home Office refused an application for extension of the child's visa. In April an appeal was lodged against the refusal and an originating application issued in Halifax County Court seeking the child's adoption.

The application was transferred to the High Court in August and in February 1994 the secretary of state was joined as intervener. The applicants were supported by the Official Solicitor.

The judge recorded how well the child had done in the applicant's care in the three years of their cohabitation. He had before him a letter that the child had written to *the Official Solicitor expressing his* strong wish not only to remain with the applicants but to be adopted by them.

The secretary of state did not seek to reverse the family arrangement. He took the point of principle that an adoption order should be refused on the application of dicta from past cases as to how the balance should be held between immigration regulations and controls and welfare and other considerations urged in support of adoption applications.

Miss Giovannetti traced the case law from *In re H* ([1982] Fam 121) through *In re W* ([1986] Fam 54) to *In re K* ([1995] Fam 38).

In *In re H* Mr Justice Hollings had said (at p133): "If the court considers on the evidence and *information* before it that the true motive of the application is based upon the desire to achieve nationality and the right of abode rather than the general welfare of the minor then an adoption order should not be made..."

"In every case it is a matter of balancing welfare against public policy, and the wider the implications of the public policy aspect the less weight may be attached to the aspect of the welfare of the particular *individual.*"

Miss Giovannetti's essential submission was that in all those cases the court had balanced the motive to achieve nationality against the motive to promote the welfare of the child. A breach of immigration regulations or policy could only be outweighed by the promotion of the welfare of the child and not by any other consideration. She submitted that the applicants were not seeking to promote the welfare of the child but to resolve the personal tragedy of infertility. His Lordship found her submissions unconvincing.

In the ordinary adoption case the child would have been abandoned by its parents or its parents would be disqualified by disability or conduct from providing adequate parenting themselves. In those circumstances it was natural that the court should pose the question in the form that it had been posed, namely, was the aim of the application to achieve nationality or promote welfare? But, as the present exceptional case demonstrated, they were not the only aims that the court might have to consider.

Clearly the court had to be on guard against the possibility of abuse. In seeking to uphold immigration regulations and policy the court should investigate whether the arrangement culminating in the adoption application was a device to circumvent immigration regulations and controls.

The passage cited from *In re H* had subsequently been elevated into a two-stage test which did not seem to have been the intention of Mr Justice Hollings. It was not so stated in *In re W.*

Mr Bond said that it had that genesis in *In re K* at first instance and the development was adopted by Lord Justice Balcombe in the Court of Appeal. His Lordship did not think that it was helpful. It risked complicating unnecessarily the essential judicial task.

The Family Division judge had to dispose of the adoption application by reference principally to section 6 of the Adoption Act 1976. By that section he had to have regard to all the circumstances, first but not paramount consideration being given to child welfare.

Although not referred to in the section, it was an important consideration that immigration regulations and policy should be upheld. A misuse of the right to apply for adoption as a device to circumvent immigration controls would always be fatal to an adoption application.

Nor could his Lordship conceive that in a case of blatant abuse the application might be rescued by the argument that subsequent delay had resulted in the development of circumstances justifying a submission that the refusal of the application would be contrary to the welfare considerations.

But, in the end, each case had to turn on its particular facts, and in determining the case the judge should have regard to the statutory considerations as expressed in section 6 of the 1976 Act without the elaboration of stages and with due *regard to* the considerations expressed by the Court of Appeal in *In re W.*

The conclusions reached by the judge were clearly open to him within the discretion that he exercised.

Lord Justice Peter Gibson delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Stuart-Smith agreed with both.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; John Delaney & Co, Leeds; Official Solicitor.

Public policy immunity for fire brigades

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Great Britain) v Yorkshire Fire and Civil Defence Authority
Before Judge William Crawford, QC
[Judgment February 23]

It was neither fair, just nor reasonable and it would be contrary to public policy to impose a duty of care to the owner of burning property on a fire service *which it was alleged had failed to* take reasonable measures to ensure the provision of an adequate supply of water at the scene of a fire.

Judge William Crawford, QC, sitting as a deputy High Court judge in the Queen's Bench Division, so held in a judgment delivered in open court after a hearing in chambers, allowing an application by West Yorkshire Fire *and Civil Defence Authority to* strike out a claim for breach of statutory duty and/or negligence brought by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Great Britain) following the destruction by fire of its chapel in Huddersfield.

Mr Bruce Speller for the plaintiff; Mr Colin MacKay, QC and Mr Jonathan Bellamy for the defendant.

HIS LORDSHIP said that on the night of October 22, 1992 a fire had been spotted in a classroom attached to the chapel and fire engines had been called. It was alleged that it was not until some time after they arrived that they were able to fight the fire efficiently owing to the absence of a proper supply of water.

Of the seven fire hydrants around the chapel, four failed to work and the other three were never found, or found so late as to be of little use. In the end, water had to be obtained from a mill dam over half a mile away. As a result, the plaintiff said, a fire which should have been contained to the classroom had destroyed the entire chapel as well.

The plaintiff had alleged breach of duty in that the hydrants had not been regularly inspected; defects had not been observed or repaired and one hydrant had been allowed to become hidden by vegetation.

His Lordship reviewed the relevant legislation, and observed that the statutory duties imposed on the defendant by the Fire Services Act 1947 were not such as to confer a private right of action on the plaintiff.

At common law the damage to the plaintiff was clearly foreseeable and there was a sufficiently proximate relationship between the parties to found a cause of action. But applying the test in *Caparo v Dickman* ([1992] AC 605) it was not fair, just and reasonable to superimpose on the statutory framework a common law duty of care.

There was no just reason why the authority should be subject to claims and liabilities which might impede the performance of its statutory duties. The courts had consistently in analogous cases refused to find that the authority owed an individual a duty at common law founding in damages.

Except where they themselves had created the danger, claims in negligence against the police had generally been barred on the ground of public policy. The coastguard had been found to enjoy a similar immunity.

The fire service was an emergency service in a truer sense than the police; to permit such claims to be made against it would impose a new burden which would be detrimental to the service and a distraction from its proper task of fighting fires.

It would create the possibility of massive financial claims which had never before been contemplated and which would be an unreasonable burden on the taxpayer. It was for the individual to insure his property against fire; it was not for the community to do so for him.

His Lordship was satisfied that it would be contrary to the public interest that the fire service should in general be open to claims based on negligence in respect of its fire fighting, which encompassed the provision of water, and rescue operations.

Solicitors: Devonshires; Davies Arnold Cooper.

Unfairness in reversing legal ruling

Regina v Faversham and Sittingbourne Justices, Ex parte Stickings and Another
Before Lord Justice Pill and Mr Justice Newman
[Judgment April 29]

It was procedurally unfair for a clerk to justices to use powers under section 28 of the Justices of the Peace Act 1979 to advise a bench on a resumed hearing to reverse a ruling on a point of law after the lawfulness of the original ruling had been questioned in a private communication by the prosecutor.

There might be cases where *either party was entitled before the* resumed hearing to bring matters to the attention of the clerk to the justices. If that were done, it should normally be done in writing with notice to the other party.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so stated when allowing an application by Mrs Heather Stickings and Ms Emma Stickings for judicial review of a decision of Sittingbourne Justices on July 4, 1995 to set down their case for retrial before a different bench following a change of decision concerning the admissibility of prosecution evidence. The justices were prohibited from conducting a fresh trial and not guilty verdicts were entered.

During the course of the trial the justices, after advice from the clerk in court who had conferred with a senior colleague, ruled certain prosecution evidence inadmissible. The case was adjourned at the close of the prosecution case.

Subsequently the branch prosecutor, who took the view that the advice had been wrong in law, telephoned the clerk to the justices to voice his concerns. The clerk to the justices spoke to the clerk who had been in court and then himself appeared in court on the day of the adjourned hearing.

The justices on his advice *changed their ruling on admissibility.* The defence was only told of the communication between prosecutor and clerk that morning. Defence counsel challenged the procedure as improper. The case was set down for retrial before a different bench.

Mr Mark Phelps for the applicants; Mr David Walden-Smith for the prosecution; the justices did *not appear and were not* represented.

LORD JUSTICE PILL said that the Divisional Court was asked to intervene to prevent a retrial because the procedure followed not *only gave an appearance of unfairness* but was in fact unfair.

His Lordship did not consider acceptable an order directing the justices to continue with the first trial on the basis that a ruling on *admissibility had already been* given.

Not only had there been a substantial passage of time such that it would be difficult to reconvene the bench and for the justices to pick up the threads, further continuation of a trial in the circumstances on the basis of wrong legal advice was not an attractive one.

Mr Phelps had submitted alternatively that a prohibition was called for in respect of a fresh trial. It was not just to subject the applicants to a fresh trial when there had been a reversal of legal advice as to the admissibility of evidence.

Mr Walden-Smith had countered that had the first trial continued and the applicants been acquitted, the prosecution would have asked the justices to state a case for the Divisional Court, and having been satisfied that the ruling as to admissibility was wrong, that court would have directed a rehearing.

His Lordship could not accept that on that assumption a rehearing would have been ordered. There were matters of fact still to be resolved at trial and therefore there might have been more than one reason for acquittal.

Would the justices have acquitted merely because of the absence of excluded evidence was a matter of speculation. The Divisional Court did not routinely order a retrial on the basis that one single point of admissibility of evidence the court had reached the wrong conclusion.

It could not be assumed that the Divisional Court would on acquittal have ordered a retrial on the basis of an error on the admissibility of evidence.

In his Lordship's judgment, there had been faults in the procedure. On the admissibility point, there had been a considered ruling in favour of the defendants after the clerk in court had conferred with a senior colleague.

There could be circumstances where a court could reverse a finding on admissibility of evidence if there was good reason and no injustice. But reversal could not be treated as routine and it could not be assumed that a court having ruled against admissibility later could change its ruling.

It was quite wrong for the CPS to contact the justices' clerk on the telephone between the two hearings. His Lordship understood the prosecutor's concerns over similar cases in the future and his wish to discuss a significant point in the administration of justice with the clerk to the justices. However, to do so in a specific case and where a ruling had been made against him and in a case where there was to be a second hearing, was wrong.

His Lordship did bear in mind the broad powers of the clerk to the justices under section 28(3) of the 1979 Act. He did not exclude the possibility that there would be cases where either party was entitled, before the resumed hearing, to bring matters to the attention of the clerk. If that were done, it should normally be done in writing with notice to the other party.

In the present case the defendants' legal advisers had no indication of the private conversation between the prosecutor and clerk until they arrived at court.

Section 28(3) powers were not intended to make routine the reversal of decisions given by justices on the basis of advice given by the clerk sitting with the justices. Respect should be given to *the general principle that decisions* arrived at by justices should not be reversed.

In the present case unfairness did taint the decision of the justices to the extent that the court should *intervene.* As a considered ruling of the justices had been reversed in the manner in which it was, it would be unjust to allow the prosecution to proceed to a fresh trial.

Mr Justice Newman agreed.

Solicitors: Andrew Keenan & Co, Anerley; CPS, Maidstone.

Correction

In *Bristol and West Building Society v Ellis* (*The Times* May 2) the solicitors for the building society were J. W. Ward & Son, Bristol.

Juries do not apply mathematical formulae

Regina v Adams
Before Lord Justice Rose, Mr Justice Hidden and Mr Justice Buxton
[Judgment April 26]

Evidence of the Bayes Theorem or any similar statistical method of analysis in a criminal trial plunged the jury into inappropriate and unnecessary realms of theory and complexity deflecting them from their proper task.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in a reserved judgment when allowing an appeal against conviction at the Central Criminal Court (Judge Gordon and a jury) on January 24, 1995 and ordering a retrial for rape of Denis John Adams. He had been sentenced to seven years' imprisonment.

Mr Ronald Thwaites, QC, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Miss Susan Tapping for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE ROSE, giving the judgment of the court, said that the prosecution case rested entirely on expert evidence in relation to the DNA profile obtained from semen on a high vaginal swab taken from the complainant.

At trial, the defence were permitted to lead evidence of the Bayes Theorem in connection with the statistical evaluation of the DNA profile.

Although their Lordships expressed no concluded view on the matter, they had very grave doubts as to whether that evidence was properly admissible, because it trespassed on an area peculiarly and exclusively within the jury's province, namely the way in which they evaluated the relationship between one piece of evidence and another.

The Bayes Theorem might be an appropriate and useful tool for *statisticians, but it was not appro*priate for use in jury trials or as a means to assist the jury in their task. In the first place, the theorem's methodology required that items of evidence be assessed separately according to their bearing on the guilt of the accused, before being combined in the overall formula.

That in their Lordships' view was too rigid an approach to evidence of the nature which a jury characteristically had to assess.

More fundamentally, the attempt to determine guilt or innocence on the basis of a mathematical formula, applied to each separate piece of evidence, was simply inappropriate to the jury's task. Jurors evaluated evidence and reached conclusions not by means of a formula, mathematical or otherwise, but by the joint application of their individual common sense and knowledge of *the world to the evidence before* them.

It was common for juries to evaluate scientific evidence but their Lordships had never heard it suggested that a jury should consider the relationship between such scientific evidence and other evidence by reference to probability formulae.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, St Albans.

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THE TIMES SUMMER BOOKS TOKEN 5

European Law Report — Luxembourg

Residence for VAT of restaurant on ferry

Faaborg-Gelting Linien A/S v Finanzamt Flensburg
Case C-231/94
Before C. N. Kakouris, President of the Sixth Chamber and Judges G. Hirsch, G. F. Mancini, F. A. Schockweiler and P. J. G. Kapteyn
Advocate General G. Cosmas
(Opinion February 1)
[Judgment May 2]

For value-added tax purposes, restaurant transactions, other than ones in takeaway establishments, were to be regarded as supplies of services rather than of goods, and such transactions on ferries were *to be deemed to have been carried* out at the place where the supplier had established his business.

The Court of Justice of the European Communities so held when giving a preliminary ruling on a reference under article 177 of the EC Treaty by the Bundesfinanzhof, Germany, by order of May 30, 1994.

The case raised issues on the interpretation of Council Directive 77/388/EEC of May 17, 1977 on the *harmonisation of the laws of the* member states relating to turnover taxes, common system of value-added tax: uniform basis of assessment (OJ 1977 L145 p1).

The issues were raised in proceedings between Faaborg-Gelting Linien A/S, established in Denmark, and the German tax authorities on the taxation of transactions consisting of the supply of meals for consumption on board ferries providing a scheduled service between ports in Denmark and Germany.

Faaborg did not mention those transactions in VAT returns submitted to the German authorities, taking the view that they constituted supplies of services, of which the place of supply was deemed, in accordance with article 9 of Directive 77/388, to be the place where the supplier had established his business.

The German tax authorities regarded the transactions as supplies of goods, which were deemed to be carried out, under article 8 of the directive, at the place where the goods were when the supply took place, and accordingly issued notices of assessment in respect of the restaurant transactions which took place during the period when the ferry was within the geographical scope of the Umsatzsteuergesetz (German VAT law).

Article 6 of Directive 77/388 provides: "(1) 'Supply of services' shall mean any transaction which does not constitute a supply of goods..."

Article 9 provides: "(1) The place where a service is supplied shall be deemed to be the place where the supplier has established his business or has a fixed establishment from which the service is supplied..."

In its judgment the Sixth Chamber of the Court of Justice held:

In order to determine whether the restaurant transactions constituted supplies of goods or of services, regard must be had to all the circumstances in which the *transaction took place in order to* identify its characteristic features.

The supply of prepared food and *drink for immediate consumption* was the outcome of a series of services ranging from the cooking of food to its physical service to a recipient, while at the same time an infrastructure was placed at the customer's disposal, including a dining room with appurtenances such as cloakrooms, and furniture and crockery.

People whose occupation consisted in carrying out restaurant transactions would have to perform such tasks as laying the table, advising the customer and explaining the food and drink on the menu, serving at table and clearing the table after the food had been eaten.

Consequently, restaurant transactions were characterised by a cluster of features and acts, of which *the provision of food was* only one component and in which services largely predominated.

They must therefore be regarded as supplies of services within article 6(1) of the directive.

The situation was different, however, where the transaction related to takeaway food and was not coupled with services designed to enhance consumption on the spot in an appropriate setting.

It having thus been established that restaurant transactions carried out on board ferries constituted supplies of services, it was necessary to determine where they were deemed to take place.

The court had held in Case 168/84 *Berkholz v Finanzamt Mitte-Altstadt* ([1985] ECR 225), paragraph 17) that, according to article 9(1), the place where the *supplier had established his busi*ness was a primary point of reference, in as much as regard was to be had to another establishment from which the services were supplied only if the reference to the place where the supplier had established his business did not lead to a rational result for tax *purposes or created a conflict with* another member state.

By paragraph 18 of that case, it appeared from the context of the concepts employed in article 9 that services could not be deemed to be supplied at an establishment other than the place where the supplier had established his business unless that establishment was of a certain minimum size and both the human and technical resources necessary for the provision of *particular services were perma*nently present.

That did not seem to apply to a place supplying restaurant services on a ship, especially where, as in the present case, the permanent establishment of the operator of the ship afforded an appropriate point of reference for the purposes of taxation.

On those grounds, the Sixth Chamber of the Court of Justice ruled:

Restaurant transactions were to be regarded as supplies of services within the meaning of article 6(1) of Directive 77/388, which, under article 9(1) of the directive, were deemed to be carried out at the *place where the supplier had* established his business.

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THE TIMES THURSDAY M
FILM
CINEMA: Geoff
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■ FILM 1

Mr Holland's Opus presents Richard Dreyfuss in a wishful vision of small-town America



■ FILM 2

The usual thrills and spills at 30,000ft, as a jumbo gets hijacked in *Executive Decision*

THE TIMES
ARTS



■ FILM 3

... while drama and mayhem on the high seas provide Ridley Scott's *White Squall* with its climax

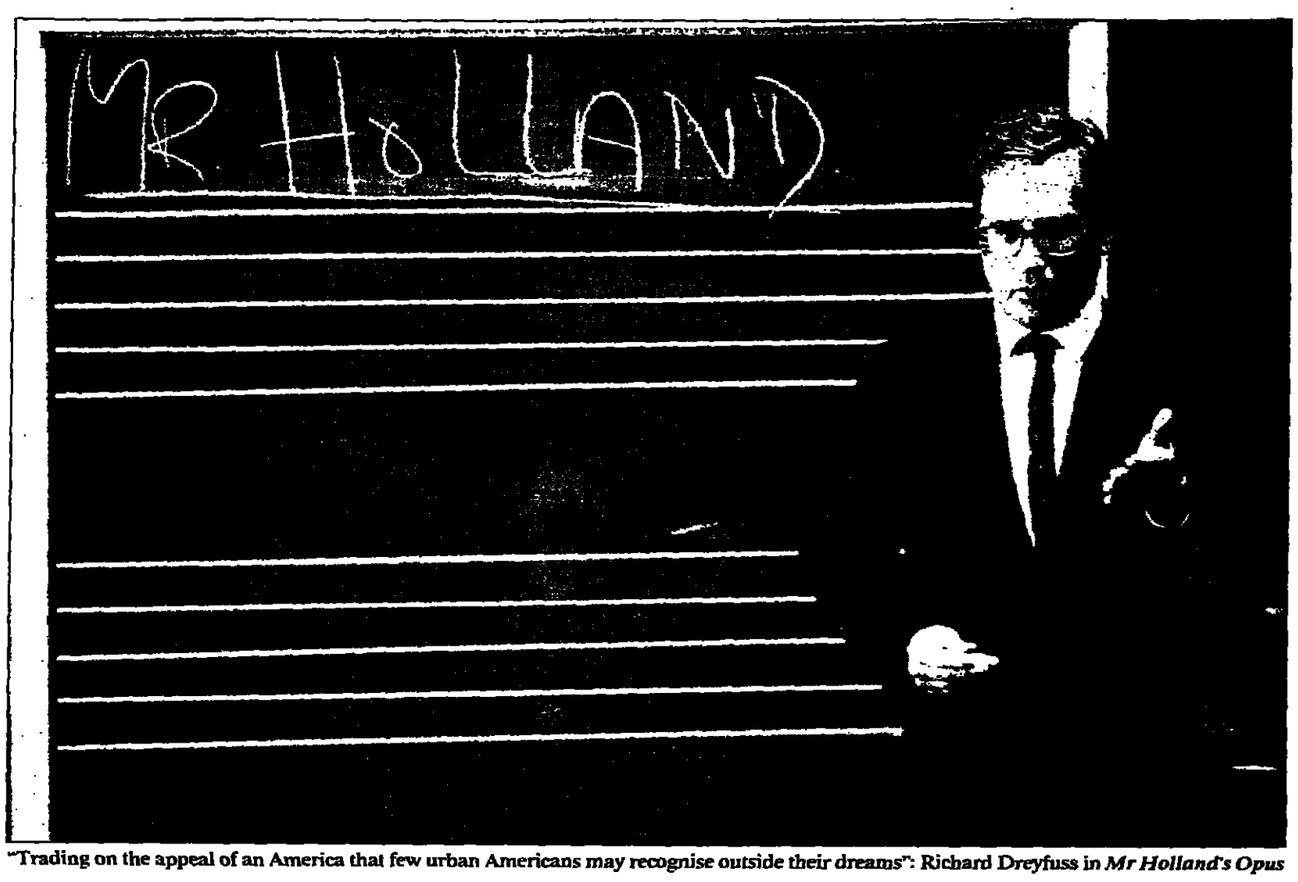


■ FILM 4

... and gay culture is explored in *Stonewall*, Nigel Finch's colourful treatment of the 1969 New York riots

CINEMA: **Geoff Brown** sees Richard Dreyfuss join the decomposing composers society in *Mr Holland's Opus*

Music the food of indigestion



"Trading on the appeal of an America that few urban Americans may recognise outside their dreams": Richard Dreyfuss in *Mr Holland's Opus*

Mr Holland's Opus
Odeon Leicester Square
PG, 143 mins
Thirty years with Richard Dreyfuss, music teacher

Executive Decision
Warner West End
15, 133 mins
Silly fun on a hijacked airliner

White Squall
Odeon West End
12, 128 mins
Water-logged drama with a splendid storm

Stonewall
MGM Shaftesbury Ave
15, 98 mins
Wayward recreation of the Stonewall riots

Our first inkling that reality will be taking a back seat during **Mr Holland's Opus** *occurs when* Richard Dreyfuss's high school music teacher blithely arrives for his first day at work without any knowledge of classes or courses. He comes into it cold, like a new pupil. He then starts gently, testing his class's orchestral skills on something easy — Beethoven's Fifth.

The very appearance of Dreyfuss gets one gulping, for his make-up man, Ken Chase by name, has whisked him back to his younger self, to allow him to age into greyness by the time the movie ends. We could all do with hiring Chase.

The movie's span is some 30 years. Popular milestones and shifts in fashion are duly noted. Flower power rules. Vietnam burns. John Lennon gets shot. But *Mr Holland's Opus*, directed by Stephen Herek, really takes place out of time, in that fuzzy, benign world that Frank Capra liked to live in: a clean, small-town world that has no place for drugs or violence, loves to watch a marching band, and knows what "opus" means. Sentimental to an impossible degree, this movie mulch trades heavily on the appeal of an America that few urban Americans may recognise outside their dreams.

Patrick Sheane Duncan's slackly built script establishes Dreyfuss as a frustrated composer sidetracked into teaching. When Beethoven fails, he follows the Michelle Pfeiffer method in *Dangerous Minds* and goes pop, grabbing the kids' attention with rock'n'roll. After hours he works on his magnum opus, *An American Symphony*, but the hours get less as the script's clichés grow. A son is born and found to be deaf. An affair with a pupil takes a few steps before the girl's brilliant voice transports her to New York City. When the music department faces the axe, Dreyfuss feels his life's work is unachieved. But the school rallies round with a smile: "We are your symphony, Mr Holland, we are your opus". His symphony is then performed, a ghastly sub-Gershwin flourish by Michael Kamen lasting all of five minutes.

Dreyfuss attacks his part with gusto, whether waving his arms before an orchestra or singing John Lennon's *Beautiful Boy*. The fireworks display earned him a Best Actor Oscar nomination, but you cannot construct a solid character from soap bubbles. As for Herek, the supine director, he might think this marshmallow marks a step toward maturity after brash youth movies such as *Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure*. But it's only an illusion.

Executive Decision is at least honest about peddling hokum. Producer Joel Silver has his standards. No opus for him: just bombs, guys and gals exploding on cue every few minutes. The setting for his latest action extravaganza is pleasantly familiar: a hijacked jumbo jet, bound for Washington DC. Those on board include plucky stewardess Halle Berry (Karen Black's role in *Airport 1975*), David Suchet's Islamic terrorist, whose want list includes $50 million in gold bullion, and an American Senator in a terrible toupee (J.T. Walsh).

The drama, though, comes from the anti-terrorist team that arrives by stealth plane and creeps into the aircraft's hold. Kurt Russell, a think-tank professor, leads the motley crew crawling through the underbelly, watching their targets through micro-cameras, and trying to neutralise a lethal consignment of nerve gas. No other movie gives such a worm's eye view of an aircraft's innards.

Director Stuart Baird, a practised film editor making the jump to bigger things, strings out the suspense too thinly at times; but the script usually snaps back with a neat surprise, or some friendly old dialogue. Russell's bomb expert faints, then comes to just in time to say, "Whatever you do, don't cut that wire". Good, silly Saturday night fun.

Ridley Scott's **White Squall** has its moments too, although you must wade through much rigmarole to reach them. The time is 1960, and the story is true. Jeff Bridges takes the lead as the fearsome boss of the *Albatross*, a schooner that offers teenage boys an eight-month, character-building voyage from Bermuda to the Galapagos Islands and back. He is called the Skipper and he takes no nonsense. He lectures the boys with that stern, mouth-full-of-marbles look: "You know what's out there. Wind and rain and some damn big waves."

At first, though, what's out there is the usual dribble of rites of passage, and youth chafing against authority. A lad with a phobia for heights is forced up the mast and wets his pants. Dutch students drop by for sexual adventures. This is piffling stuff, especially from the director of *Blade Runner*.

Then come the big waves and a whirlwind of water, the "white squall" itself. Now we know why the story caught Scott's eye: he wanted to sweep audiences away with the panic, the chaos and the Dolby digital sound of a schooner capsizing. Through a porthole, Bridges watches helplessly as his wife (Caroline Goodall) drowns. There are five other victims of the sea's fury. As for us, we emerge from the sequence severely shaken and drenched to the skin.

From this high point, the film has nowhere to go but, like the *Albatross*, itself, down. When the survivors reach land, the Skipper faces a Coast Guard tribunal, and the air suddenly fills with courtroom clichés. From millpond to squall to millpond: that is the voyage this movie takes. But the squall itself is magnificent.

Nigel Finch's **Stonewall**, a colourful treatment of the week leading up to the 1969 Stonewall riots, has its own share of problems. When we hear the word riot, Hollywood and the television news have led us to expect mob warfare and police brutality on an epic scale. But what do we get in *Stonewall*? A thin line of drag queens in Greenwich Village, raising their fists and shaking their wigs at a thin line-up of mocking police. After building up to the grand confrontation, the film goes limp just when it needs to stand tall.

Maybe producer Christine Vachon's modest budget could not run to a convincing riot; the Greenwich Village the film recreates in New York always seems underpopulated. Or perhaps the "feel-good" factor intervened. Though inspired by Martin Duberman's book of history, *Stonewall* spins off into fiction right from the start, and splatters its scenes with camp musical numbers, drag queen bitchery, gay culture as knockabout fun.

True, the carnival also includes some tender moments, and sociological footnotes about gay repression. We observe the conflict between the militant hero (Frederick Weller) and an activist from the Mattachine Society, whose approach is softly-softly. But the impression persists of a film skating too fast over powerful material, and a director not quite in control.

Finch, co-editor of BBC2's *Arena* programme for many years, died of an Aids-related disease in February 1995, when *Stonewall* was in post-production. For his sake, and the sake of the subject, I wish this had been a better memorial.

Testament to one man's will

The knowledge that he was dying drove Nigel Finch to complete *Stonewall*. **Carol Allen** reports



Finch: "He wanted to make an entertaining film"

The late Nigel Finch's film *Stonewall* comes at an interesting time for the gay movie. Hollywood, flush with the success of *Philadelphia*, continues to court the mainstream, casting heterosexual stars in gay roles — with mixed results. Patrick Swayze and Wesley Snipes flopped dramatically in *To Wong Fu*, while *The Birdcage*, despite criticisms of stereotyping and sentimental political correctness, has proved to be a crowd-pleaser.

Meanwhile, low-budget independent American films such as *Swoon* and *Jeffrey*, appealing primarily to a gay audience and ranging in style and quality, continue to proliferate.

Stonewall, along with another forthcoming British film, *Beautiful Thing*, based on Jonathan Harvey's hit play, occupies a middle ground. Both have the universal appeal of being love stories, but whereas Harvey's tale focuses on the innocence of teenage first love and is firmly rooted in the contemporary reality of a London council estate, Finch's piece tackles the far more ambiguous subject of love among the drag queens of Greenwich Village in 1969.

Philadelphia found a new mainstream audience for a gay story. Its writer, Ron Nyswaner, said that if the movie had played "only to people who thought just like we do, we would have done nothing very significant". Did Finch and Wall have a similar aim with *Stonewall*?

"Nigel hoped it would have a general audience, but he didn't see it in a pioneering way," Wall says. "He wanted to make an entertaining film. Two of his favourite films were *Performance* and *The Servant*, both of which have the same sort of ambiguity and sense of a world with its own set of rules that we aimed for in *Stonewall*."

Wall and Finch were close friends for 16 years. For 11 of those, until Finch's death early last year, they were joint editors of BBC2's *Arena* and were largely responsible for creating its oblique approach to contemporary culture through such films as *My Way* and *The Private Life of the Ford Cortina*. Financed from BBC sources, *Stonewall* is *Arena*'s first venture into theatrical feature film-making. The programme is also involved in another American gay history project, the forthcoming *I Shot Andy Warhol*.

Making a feature film had long been Finch's ambition. Although *Stonewall*'s story predates the Aids threat, Finch's own HIV-positive condition made him aware that time could be short for him to fulfil his dream, particularly after the death two years ago of his partner, Rupert Haselden, to whom the film is dedicated.

"Obviously that had a profound effect on Nigel," Wall says. "His determination to get this thing done was absolute. He felt that if he didn't do *Stonewall* when he did [in the autumn of 1994] he might not be strong enough later, or even alive.

"He seemed healthy when we started filming, the best I'd seen him for a long time, but it was a very gruelling shoot: low-budget, labour-intensive and in cold conditions. He didn't get sick until the last few days, but was dead within nine weeks of the last shot he did."

'A total feel-good film'

SNAP VERDICT

Every week, young film fans discuss the new releases ...

MR HOLLAND'S OPUS:
ALICE BIRD, 18: *This was a* total feel-good film, but not straight-down-the-line corny. Richard Dreyfuss was all right, but not mind-boggling.
PATRICK BIRD, 18: This sets the mood of the time really well, but I would have edited a lot out — it was so long.
MATT JONES, 23: Dreyfuss's performance was wonderful. The film is not subtle, but it cannot fail to move.
DAMIAN SAMUELS, 23: A classic weepy American tale. Take tissues.

STONEWALL
ALICE: Well-acted and realistic, but I found the love scenes difficult to deal with.
MATT: Slow-going at times and, despite a certain power, doesn't do justice to the Stonewall story.
PATRICK: Very strange, but interesting from a historical point of view.
DAMIAN: A good balance of musical numbers by drag queens and harsh violent scenes. Although it can be slow, it is a very moving account.

EXECUTIVE DECISION:
DAMIAN: A typical all-American action-thriller: a real nail-biter, although it does have its fair share of cheesy lines.
PATRICK: Like many other English actors, David Suchet plays the villain, which I thought he did with great conviction.
ALICE: Predictable, but very entertaining.
MATT: Big, brash, American fluff. Not cerebral but very fast-paced and fun. Leave your brain at home and just enjoy it.

RADIO: Start times vary, but Radio 3's new service is worth waiting up for

Greats enliven the small hours

As this column provided the first confirmation that Radio 3 was to broadcast through the night, I felt obliged to stay up and listen to the new service, which began at 1am on Sunday. The principal result is that the bags under my eyes are now large enough to make a trolley redundant at Sainsbury's.

One could argue that there is not much more to this all-night routine than an attempt to show that anything Classic FM can do Radio 3 can do too. Better? I suppose that is a question of taste.

The new Radio 3 service is called **Through the Night**. The title was decided (I imagine) at a typically long BBC meeting which ended when someone yawned loudly, looked ostentatiously at the clock and said: "Look, why not just call it *Through the Night*?" Sighs of relief all round.

One trouble with *Through the Night* is that it isn't, or at least it isn't on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. On those nights there is an interregnum for schools broadcasting. Worse, the schools broadcasts are of uneven length, so *Through the Night* starts at 2am on Tuesday and Thursday and 1.20am on Wednesday. On other nights the start is at 1am.

This is not exactly a recipe for packing 'em in, especially as Classic, being in the private sector, has no obligation to teach anything. People who think the BBC has an easy time of it ought to try drawing up a schedule armed with a list of programmes in one hand and the BBC Charter in the other.

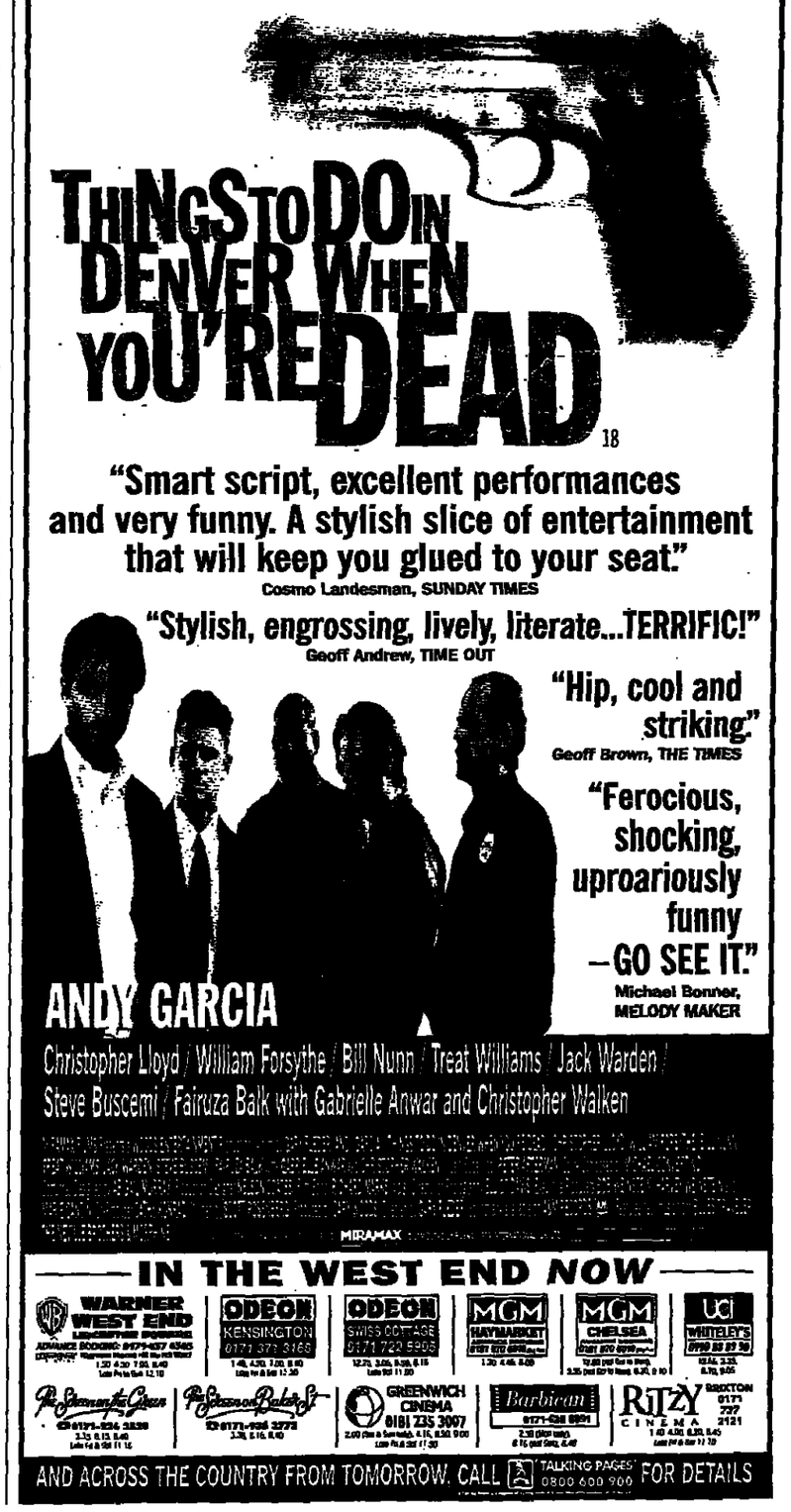
But *Through the Night* has already produced a hero. His name is Donald Macleod and he is the show's presenter. And he says: "I've been guided by the assumption that in the middle of the night what listeners want to hear is the music rather than someone talking about the music, so I'll simply tell you what you are going to hear."

Nearly all presenters say that before shows start: I would not be surprised if Chris Evans said it once, only at greater length. What makes Macleod a hero is that he actually means it. He is some kind of radio throwback, a presenter who thinks the music is more important than him. How quaint.

Thus *Through the Night* this week has brought us composers including Beethoven (third and fourth piano concertos), Brahms (violin concerto) and the Mozart Requiem in D. Around 3.15am there is a slot for early music, which has included secular songs by Lassus and madrigals by Monteverdi. At least, the schedules said so: even I have a prior engagement at 3.15am.

So who exactly is listening? A man and his dog (possibly the HMV dog). And who cares? Please, spare us audience research, for I take the view that if umpteen FM stations can pump out Oasis all night, there is surely a role for something decent in the wee small hours.

PETER BARNARD





CHOICE 1

The life and work of Derek Jarman is celebrated in a new show

VENUE: Today at the Barbican Art Gallery



CHOICE 2

The ever-popular classical guitarist John Williams returns to Glasgow

VENUE: Tonight at the Royal Concert Hall

THE TIMES ARTS



VIDEOS

Philip Haas's *Angels and Insects* is a handsome and clever film that never quite comes alive



RECORDS

In the shops now: the Monteverdi Choir gives lusty new breath to folksong settings by Percy Grainger

LONDON

DEREK JARMAN: This is the first retrospective encompassing the life and diverse work of the film-maker, painter, writer, designer and gardener. To complement the exhibition, the Barbican Cinema will be screening a season of Jarman's feature films, shorts, super-8 work and pop videos from Saturday (ring 0171-382 7000 for details). Also running concurrently is an *exhibition featuring 200 photographs*, and spanning more than four decades, by the Magnum photojournalist Eve Arnold.
Barbican Art Gallery, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 4141). Both exhibitions open today, 10am-6.45pm. Until August 18.

DUET FOR ONE: Anton Rodgers and Elizabeth Garvie in Tom Kempinski's most enduring play, a two-hander for a violinist struck down by MS and her psychiatrist. Christopher Wren directs.
Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 2255). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat 8.30pm. Until May 26.

SYLVIA: Strange-sounding romantic comedy by A.R. Gurney, with Robin Ellis as a Wall Street trader, Mona Altken as his wife and Zoë Wanamaker as the stray dog (Sylvia) he finds in Central Park. Michael Blakemore directs.
Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070). Previews begin tonight, 8pm; mats Thurs (16) 3pm, Sat (18) 5pm. Opens May 20, 7pm.

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Moxey

ELSEWHERE

BEVERLEY: The annual **Early Music Festival** begins today and runs until Sunday, inclusive. Among the highlights are recitals by the lutenist Nigel North, London Baroque and St James's Baroque Players. On Saturday, the vocal ensemble Tallis Scholars, in their festival debut, give a programme of Renaissance choral music in a concert by candlelight at Beverley Minster. **Tourist Information Centre**, Guildhall, Register Square (01482 883698 for tickets and information). Various venues.

GLASGOW: Altar has **sell-out recitals** in 1992 and 1994. **John Williams** makes a welcome return to Glasgow for what promises to be an equally popular duo recital with fellow Australian guitarist Timothy Kain. Start of a national tour. **Royal Concert Hall**, Buchanan Street (0141-227 5511). Tonight, 8pm. Next in **Dublin**, National Concert Hall (0035-3167 11533), May 11.

MANCHESTER: John Houston's film starred Marilyn Monroe, Clarke Gable and Montgomery Clift. Alex Finlayson's play **Misfits** tells what went on behind the scenes. Lisa Eichhorn plays MM. Gregory Hersov directs.
Royal Exchange, St Ann's Square (0161-833 9833). Preview tonight, 7.30pm. Opens May 10, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Thurs, 7.30pm, Fri and Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 4pm. Until June 1.

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON: Roger Allam and Brid Brennan play the upwardly mobile couple in Tim Albery's production of **Macbeth**.
Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Waterside (01789-295 623). Previews begin tonight, 7.30pm; mat Sat, Wed 1.30pm. Opens May 16, 7pm. Then in rep with *As You Like It*.

LONDON GALLERIES

British Library Galleries: The Hastings Albums (0171-323 7111) . . **British Museum:** Beirut: Uncovering the Past (0171-636 1555) . . **Courtauld:** Drawings by Thomas Gainsborough (0171-873 2526) . . . **Llewellyn Alexander Gallery:** Godfrey Tonks (0171-620 1322) . . **Museum of London:** London on Film (0171-600 0807) . . **National Gallery:** Pesellino's *Trinity* Altarpiece (0171-747 2885). **National Portrait Gallery:** *David Livingstone and the Victorian Encounter with Africa* (0171-306 0055). **Richard Green:** 40 paintings Jan van Goyen (1071-493 3939). **Serpentine:** Langlands and Bell (0171-723 9072) . . V & A: William Morris (0171-938 8500).

☐ **COMPANY:** Adrian Lester, Sheila Gish, Sophie Thompson in an excellent staging of Sondheim's bittersweet musical on marriage, pro and contra. **Albery**, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

◪ **THE DEVIL IS AN ASS:** Ben Jonson's adventures of a junior devil in a sleazy London he soon finds to be far worse than Hell. An energetic but hollow production.
Pit, Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight, 7.15pm; mat 2pm. In rep with *The Relapse*.

◪ **ENDGAME:** Riveting performances by Alun Armstrong and Stephen Dillane, in Kaba Mitchell's production of middle-period Beckett.
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham St WC2 (0171-369 1732). Mon-Sat 6pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 4pm. Until May 25.

☐ **MARY STUART:** Superb playing by Anna Massey as Schiller's Virgin Queen. French actress Isabelle Huppert less at ease with the language as her rival. *National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1* (0171-928 2252). Tonight 7.30pm, in rep with *Blue Remembered Hills*.

◪ **PORTIA COUGHLAN:** Derbhla Crotty in the title role of Marina Carr's play where the loss of a drowned twin brother is set against the ordinariness of small-town Ireland. Garry Hynes directs.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◪ **Some seats available**
☐ **Seats at all prices**

Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (0171-730 1745). Previews begin tonight, 7.30pm. Opens May 14.

◪ **THE POWER OF THE DOG:** A middle-class family at war with itself is the subject of Ellen Dryden's latest play. With Joan Moon and Barbara Lott, directed by Sam Walters.
Orange Tree, Clarence Street, Richmond (0181-940 3633). Previews begin tonight, 7.45pm. Opens May 13. Until June 15.

☐ **SALAD DAYS:** Welcome return of Julian Slade's tuneful musical, *directed by Ned Sherrin. Nicola Fullarnes and* Simon Connolly play the young lovers.
Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed 2.30pm, Sat 4pm.

■ **SOME SUNNY DAY:** Martin Sherman's stimulating new play, set in Cairo in 1942 where the Brits are reduced to stiff-lipped panic, wife-murder and other courses appropriate to changing one's life. Splendid cast.
Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (0171-722 9301). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 4pm.

☐ **TOMMY:** Hugely impressive staging of the traumatised child's apotheosis to pinball wizard. Loads of electronic tricks disguise the improbability.
Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-379 5399). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

☐ **TWELVE ANGRY MEN:** Kevin Whately, Timothy West, Peter Vaughan and nine excellent others in Reginald Rose's celebrated jury-room drama.
Comedy, Panton Street SW1 (0171-369 1731). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed, 2.30pm and Sat 4pm.

LONG RUNNERS

☐ **Blood Brothers:** Phoenix (0171-369 1733) . . ◪ **Cats:** New London (0171-405 0072) . . ◪ **Fame: The Musical** Cambridge (0171-494 5083) ☐ **Jolson:** Victoria Palace (0171-834 1317) ■ **Les Misérables:** Palace (0171-434 0909) . . ◪ **Miss Saigon:** Drury Lane (0171-494 5400) . . ☐ **The Mousetrap:** St Martin's (0171-836 1443) . . ■ **The Phantom of the Opera:** Her Majesty's (0171-494 5400) ☐ **Sunset Boulevard:** Adelphi (0171-344 0055).
Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

NEW RELEASES: *Times* critics review the latest in video and compact disc

Study into the work of nature

VIDEO
Geoff Brown

■ **ANGELS AND INSECTS**
Film Four, 18, 1995
A PENNILESS naturalist (Mark Rylance) is given shelter by the lord of the manor and marries his daughter (Patsy Kensit). Endless babies are produced while the husband studies ants. Endless words, too, lending the impression of a film fettered by its literary source (a novella by A.S. Byatt). The costumes and decor are sumptuous, but director Philip Haas never quite makes his clever film come alive. Available to rent.

■ **THE NET**
Columbia TriStar, 12, 1995
THE computer technology may be new, but the script is covered in one inch of dust. Sandra Bullock is the woman in peril, a computer expert who tumbles across a network of hackers able to spread worldwide disaster. The implausibilities would make Hitchcock blush, and director Irwin Winkler lacks all visual finesse. But in the short term the thrills work. Available to rent.

■ **RAN**
Lumière, 15, 1985
THIS IS *King Lear* seen through the visionary eyes of Kurosawa, with Tatsuya Nakadai as the king. A grandiose drama awash with battles, apocalyptic sights, and excellent music by Toru Takemitsu. The widescreen video print comes packaged with Chris Marker's revealing documentary portrait, *A.K. — The Making of Ran*.

■ **THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW**
Fox, 15, 1975
THE 21st birthday edition of this musical horror spoof includes outtakes, alternate takes, the original trailer and cast interviews. Barry Bostwick and Susan Sarandon play the naive lovebirds sheltering in the old dark house of the "sweet transvestite from transsexual Transylvania". Good kinky fun.

■ **TO DIE FOR**
PolyGram, 15, 1995
HIP director Gus Van Sant sails close to the mainstream with this breezy satire on America's television culture, written by Buck Henry. But his iconoclastic spirit still pokes through as Nicole Kidman's small-town girl nearly stoops to murder in her lust for glory as a local television star. Razor-sharp performances add to the film's delight. Available to rent.



Babies and words overflow in Haas's clever and handsome film, *Angels and Insects*

CHORAL
Hilary Finch

■ **PERCY GRAINGER**
Londonderry Air, etc
Monteverdi Choir/Gardiner
Philips 446 657-2 ★★★
THIS is the Monteverdi Choir as you've never heard them before. Together with the wonderfully ad hoc English Country Gardiner Orchestra (sic) they give lusty new breath to folksong settings by Percy Grainger which are more often enjoyed at their best in the piano versions for as many hands and fingers as possible.

Grainger as pianist, saxophonist, visionary, eccentric and loyal friend of Grieg wrote music for a world where, in his own words, "love and art are squelched by competition".

Nothing's better; nothing, perhaps, is worse: and what remains — a testament to the genius and compassion of the composer — is a *Brigg Fair* which went so far as to inspire Delius, a passionate and sea-surging *Shallow Brown*, the eponymous and wordless *Londonderry Air*, world premiere recordings of Faeroese wedding and dancing ballads, and delectably more besides.

Neither of the principals makes much pretence at being a teenager. Domingo's cavatina beneath Juliette's balcony lacks freshness and is the song of an experienced suitor, rather than a boy smitten hours earlier.

Similarly Ruth Ann Swenson, very precise in voice, does not give the celebrated waltz song enough girlish glitter. Both come into their own after Frère Laurent (the excellent Alastair Miles) has messed things up. The first two acts may be light on infatuation; the last two lack nothing in impending tragedy.

Here, too, Leonard Slatkin shows his proper weight in his first opera on disc. Earlier he and the Munich players miss the succulence that a French team might have brought to Gounod's heady score.

Susan Graham's crisp Stephano is easily the best of the supporting players, along with Miles. *Those looking for a more idiomatic Roméo* might do well to wait for Alagna on EMI, which is in the pipeline. His Romeo is already on video.

ORCHESTRAL
Barry Millington

■ **RAUTAVAARA**
Angel of Light (Symphony No 7): Annunciations
Jussila/Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra/ Segerstam
Ondine ODE 869-2 ★★★
THE music of the Finnish composer Einojuhani Rautavaara (born in 1928) should have broad appeal in these mysticism-orientated times. Yet there is no mind-numbing repetition in *Angel of Light* but a genuine symphonic structure. Rautavaara's idiom fuses traditional and modern in an individual manner.

The Seventh Symphony, Rautavaara's most recent (1994), is the latest work in the *Angel Series* which he initiated 20 years ago. Angels here are seen as Jungian archetypes, and although the first movement inclines to the mystical, the second has an aggressive aspect. The third returns to the serene mood of the first, while the fourth marks an exhilarating ascent towards the light.

Annunciations is the title of Rautavaara's Organ Concerto of 1976-77, a 30-minute structure that endlessly renews itself.

The solo part calls for considerable virtuosity from the organist, and Kari Jussila is more than equal to the task.

OPERA
John Higgins

■ **GOUNOD**
Roméo et Juliette
Swenson/ Graham/ Domingo/Vernhes/ Miles
Munich Radio Orchestra/Slatkin.
RCA 090.26 68440.2 (two CDs) ★★
GOUNOD'S vision of the lovers of Verona is now thinly represented in the CD catalogue, and any new entry is welcome. RCA's version is not going to set the rooftops of that city aflame, but it gets better as it progresses over the acts.

★ *Worth hearing*
★★ *Worth considering*
★★★ *Worth buying*

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

Gary Fleder. Andy Garcia heads a fashionable cast.
Bfi/Imax (0171-638 8891) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426-914 666) **Swiss Cottage** (0171-568 3057) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen on Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Screen on the Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332) **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

CURRENT

◆ **CITY HALL** (15): Something's rotten in the city of New York, even with Al Pacino as Mayor. Watchable drama with John Cusack, Bridget Fonda and Danny Aiello. Director, Harold Becker.
MGM Trocadero (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426-914 666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332) **Warner West End** (0171-437 4343)

◆ **DEAD MAN WALKING** (15): Oscar winner Susan Sarandon visits Sean Penn on Death Row. Powerful, carefully balanced drama about capital punishment. Director, Tim Robbins.
MGMs: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) **Tottenham Ct Rd** (0171-636 6148) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

◆ **GET SHORTY** (15): John Travolta's loanshark takes on the movie business. Entertaining but trivial comedy. Director, Barry Sonnenfeld. With Danny De Vito, Gene Hackman, Rene Russo.
Empire (0171-437 1234)

◆ **MIGHTY APHRODITE** (15): Woody Allen searches for his adopted son's natural mother. Engaging variation on old themes, with Mira Sorvino.
Chelsea (0171-351 3742) **Odeons: Haymarket** (01426 915353) **Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2223) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

NELLY AND MONSIEUR ARNAUD (PG): Claude Sautet's marvellously subtle tale about an older man and a younger woman, with Michel Serrault and Emmanuelle Beart.
Curzon Mayfair (0171-399 1720) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772)

RICHARD III (15): Shakespeare updated to the 1930s. Dynamic cinema, with Ian McKellen. Director, Richard Loncraine.
Barbican (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Curzon West End** (0171-369 1722) **Gate** (0171-727 4043) **MGM Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Minema** (0171-235 4225) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen on the Hill** (0171-435 3366)

◆ **SUDDEN DEATH** (18): Clichés galore with Jean-Claude Van Damme as a fireman fighting an extortionist gang. Director, Peter Hyams.
Empire (0171-437 1234) **MGM Trocadero** (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332)

ENTERTAINMENTS

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM 0171 632 8300 (24hr) **ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA** Tom'l 7.30 (LAST PERF) TOSCA Tomor 7.30 FIDELIO

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 0171 304 4000 for Box Off & Standby Info. Tickets available on the day **The Royal Opera** Sat 7.30 (Last Night) TOSCA **The Royal Ballet** Tom'l, Mon, Tue 7.30, Wed 2.30 & 7.30 ANASTASIA

THEATRES

ADELPHI "ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S MASTERPIECE" Wall St Journal SUNSET BOULEVARD Winner of 7 Tony Awards including BEST MUSICAL Starring PETULA CLARK 24HR CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS CALL 0171 344 0055 (bkg fee) GRP BOOKING 413 3302 (bkg fee) No booking fee for Adelphi Box Office Callers Recorded Information 0171 379 6565 Mon-Sat 7.45 Mats Thur & Sat 3.00

ALBERY 369 1730/344 4444 420 0000 Eves 7.45, Mats Wed, Sat 3 BEST MUSICAL CRITICS' CIRCLE AWARD 96 COMPANY by STEPHEN SONDHEIM & GEORGE FURTH "This show is indispensable to civilised life...BRIBE THE BOX OFFICE TO GET IN" S.Tms

ALDWYCH 0171 416 6003/312 6039 /344 4444 (No booking fee) F. MURRAY ABRAHAM GEMMA JONES TOLSTOY by James Goldman Mon - Sat 7.45pm Thurs & Sat mats 3.00pm

APOLLO VICTORIA cc 0171 416 6055 cc 24hrs 0171 344 4444/0171 420 0000 Gps 0171 416 6075/ 413 3321 Andrew Lloyd Webber's New production of STARLIGHT EXPRESS "A REBORN THEATRICAL DELIGHT" Daily Mail While knuckle runs 19.45 daily Tue & Sat 15.00 Tickets from £12.50

APOLLO Shaftesbury Ave 0171 494 5070 Now Previewing. Eves 8pm, Thu mat 3pm Sat 5 & 8.15. Press Night 20 May 7pm **Zoë Wanamaker Marie Aitken Robin Ellis** SYLVIA a romantic comedy by A.R. Gurney directed by Michael Blakemore

ARTS 836 2132/420 0000 BROTHERS OF THE BRUSH by Jimmy Murphy 'Best new play in London' Guardian MUST END 18 MAY Eves 7.30, Sat at 5.30 & 8.30

CAMBRIDGE BO & cc 0171 494 5054 cc (no bkg fee) 312 1992/ 344 4444 Gps 413 3321/ 312 1970/ 494 5454 FAME THE MUSICAL "FAME IS A FEEL-GOOD TRIUMPH" Mail On Sunday "BREATHTAKING" Independent Eves 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 3.00

COMEDY 0171 369 1731/ cc 344 4444 (24hrs) KEVIN WHATELY TIMOTHY WEST PETER VAUGHAN "TOTALLY ABSORBING" D.Mail TWELVE ANGRY MEN "Harold Pinter directs with superb precision" D.Tel Mon-Sat 7.45pm, Wed 2.30pm & Sat 4pm

CRITERION 369 1737/344 4444 REDUCED SHAKESPEARE COMPANY in THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (abridged) "Hilarious" Times Mats Thur at 3, Sat at 5 Sun at 4, Eves at 8pm THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF AMERICA (abridged) Tuesday at 8pm

DOMINION Ticketlines 0171 416 6060/ 0171 420 0000 (bkg fee). Gps 0171 416 6075/413 3321/420 0200 GREASE Starring RICHARD CALKIN and SHONA LINDSAY "Fast, furious, thrilling & fun, fun, fun." Daily Mirror Eves 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 3pm TICKETS AVAILABLE - APPLY DAILY TO BOX OFFICE

DRURY LANE THEATRE ROYAL 93 cc (Bkg fee) 24hr 7 days 0171 494 5000/344 4444/420 0000 Gps 494 5454/413 3311/312 8000 MISS SAIGON "THE CLASSIC LOVE STORY OF OUR TIME" NOW IN ITS 7TH SENSATIONAL YEAR! Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3pm Good seats avail for Wed Mat & some perfs - apply B.O. FOR TELEPHONE/POSTAL BOOKINGS & PERSONAL CALLERS 0171 494 5080 (BKG FEE)

DUCHESS cc 0171 494 5070 cc 344 4444 (no bkg fee)/420 0000 (bkg fee) 0171-413 3321 Eves 8pm, Wed mat 3pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30 "A SAUCY COMEDY" E. Std NOW IN ITS 6th YEAR DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER "Gloriously Outrageous" T.Out

DUKE OF YORK'S 0171 836 5122 cc 836 9837/420 0100 "HAS BREATHED LIFE INTO THE STAGE MUSICAL" Guardian BY JEEVES an almost entirely new musical by ALAN AYCKBOURN & ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER OPENS 2 JULY FOR A LIMITED SEASON

FORTUNE BO & CC 0171 836 2238/0171 312 8033 BARRY STANTON MICHAEL HIGGS Susan Hill's THE WOMAN IN BLACK Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt "The most thrilling and chilling play for years" D.Mail NOW IN IT'S 6TH YEAR Mon-Sat 8pm Mats Tues 3pm Sat 4pm

FORTUNE Sudeys 3.30 pm "Quite Astonishing" BBC Elizabeth Mansfield as MARIE Booking to July

GARRICK 0171 494 5085/ 0171 312 1990 (no bkg fee) Some Experiences You Never Forget WINNER OF 19 MAJOR AWARDS The Royal National Theatre production JB Priestley's AN INSPECTOR CALLS "THRILLING...MUST BE SEEN" D.Mail "One of the most intoxicating, theatrically imaginative experiences of the 1990s" Eve. Stand "TWO HOURS OF ENTHRALLING, VISUALLY STUNNING DRAMA"D.Tel Mon-Fri 7.45, Sat 5.00 & 8.15, Wed mat 2.30

GIELGUD 494 5085/344 4444 /420 0000 "A STAR TEAM JUGGLING WITH STAR MATERIAL...COMEDY AT ITS ZENITH" MoS TOM CONTI "WONDERFUL" D.Ex SHARON GLESS "LUMINOUS" D.Tel CHAPTER TWO "NEIL SIMON AT HIS BEST"S.Tel "Tender, funny & deeply touching.....marvellous" D.Mail Mon - Fri 8, Mats Thu 3, Sat 5 & 8.15

HAYMARKET 930 8800 344 4444/420 0000 (bkg fee) THE PETER HALL COMPANY Felicity Kendal Neil Pearson Nicholas Le Prevost MIND MILLIE FOR ME FEYDEAU'S CLASSIC FARCE Eves 7.45, Mats Wed & Sat 3.00

HER MAJESTY'S 24hr 494 5400 (bkg fee) CC 344 4444/420 0000 (bkg fee) Gps 494 5454/413 3311/436 5588 ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S AWARD WINNING MUSICAL THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Directed by HAROLD PRINCE NOW BKG TO DEC 96 Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00. Apply to Box Office daily for returns

LONDON PALLADIUM BO/CC 0171 494 5020/344 4444 (£1 tkt serv chg) 420 0000 Gps 0171 420 0200 JIM DALE RETURNS TO THE WEST END "A MAJOR THEATRICAL EVENT" Daily Mail OLIVER! 2ND SPECTACULAR YEAR "LIONEL BART'S MASTERPIECE YOU CAN'T ASK FOR MORE" S.Times Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 2.30 SOME GOOD SEATS AVAIL NOW FOR WEEKDAY PERFS

LYRIC 0171 494 5557/ 344 4444 (bkg fee) ***WINNER*** 95 & 96 OLIVIER AWARDS Dein Perry Best Choreography TAP DOGS "THE HOTTEST SHOW" D.Mail Mon-Thurs 8.00, Fri & Sat 6.00 & 8.45

LYRIC HAMMERSMITH 0181 741 2311 Chekhov's THREE SISTERS Directed by Max Stafford-Clark "Unforgettable" S Times Evgs 7.30 Mats Sat 2.30.

MERMAID 0171 236 2211/ 0171 344 4444 From 28th May STEVEN BERKOFF in William Shakespeare's CORIOLANUS

NATIONAL THEATRE BO 0171 928 2252 Grps 0171 620 0741,24hr cc bkg fee 0171 420 0000 OLIVIER Today 2.00 & 7.15 THE PRINCE'S PLAY Victor Hugo in a new verse translation by Tony Harrison. Tomor 7.15 A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC Music & lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, book by Hugh Wheeler LYTTELTON Tom'l 7.30 MARY STUART Friedrich Schiller in a new translation by Jeremy Sams. Tomor 6.00 BLUE REMEMBERED HILLS Dennis Potter COTTESLOE Today 2.30 & 7.30, Tomor 7.30 STANLEY Pete Gems

NEW LONDON Drury Lane WC2 BO 0171 405 0072 CC 0171 404 4079 24hr 0171 344 4444/420 0000 Grps 0171 413 3311/436 5588 THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER/ T.S. ELIOT INTERNATIONAL AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL CATS Eves 7.45 Mats Tue & Sat 3.00 LATECOMERS NOT ADMITTED WHILE AUDITORIUM IS IN MOTION, PLEASE BE PROMPT. Bars open at 6.45 LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL. DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE.

OLD VIC 928 7616/312 8034 THE PETER HALL COMPANY David Rintoul Nicky Henson Diana Fletcher Kim Thomson Google Withers John McCallum AN IDEAL HUSBAND "GREAT & GLORIOUS" S. Tms Mon-Sat 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 3.00

OPEN AIR Theatre Regent's Park 0171-486 2431/1933 cc 0171 344 4444 (24hrs) (Bkg Fee) THE COMEDY OF ERRORS Previs 24 May. THE TEMPEST joins rep 11 June. PAINT YOUR WAGON joins rep 23 July.

PALACE THEATRE 0171-434 0909 cc 24hrs (bkg fee) 0171-344 4444 Gps 0171 413 3311 THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR MUSICAL' LES MISERABLES NOW IN ITS 11TH RECORD-BREAKING YEAR Eves 7.30 Mats Thu & Sat 2.30 Latecomers not admitted until the interval LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL. DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE

PHOENIX BO/CC 0171 369 1733 /344 4444/420 0000 (fee) BEST MUSICAL Olivier/Drama Awards Plays & Players/Ivor Novello Awards WILLY RUSSELL'S BLOOD BROTHERS SIOBHAN McCARTHY STEFAN DENNIS CARL WAYNE ...Brings the audience to its feet, and rousing its approval" D Mail Eves 7.45 Mats Thurs 3 Sat 4

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CLASSICAL CONCERTS



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■ THEATRE 1

Felicity Kendal is the most appealing character on stage in Peter Hall's new production of *Mind Millie for Me*



■ THEATRE 2

After a long national tour, Max Stafford-Clark's production of *Three Sisters* reaches London

THE TIMES
ARTS



■ DANCE 1

With his staging of *Carmen*, Antonio Gades proves that flamenco does have a future



■ DANCE 2

. . . and Christopher Dean leaves his skates behind as he choreographs his first ballet for ENB

THEATRE: Chekhov weakened after months on the road, but Feydeau bares his teeth in a new adaptation

Gone with the whinge

In Max Stafford-Clark's production for Out of Joint, in London after its six-month national and Indian tour, the Prozorov women have seldom seemed such ninnies. Their over-refinement, in a coarse world they cannot bring themselves to confront, is the nature of the predicament Chekhov places them in, but we are familiar with interpretations that suggest the faults lie in their stars. Stafford-Clark makes us feel that they permit themselves to grow bloated in their provincial backwater.

Throughout the play, which is spread over a longer stretch of time than any other that Chekhov wrote, forks appear in the action. Not the dining accessory left out in the garden in Act IV, which sets the dreadful Natasha off on one of her rages, but openings for an alternative life.

Catherine Russell's Masha throws herself into such an opening with Vershinin (Nigel Terry), although it happens to lead her into a dead end; the others do so little to extricate themselves from fatigue or *ennui* that I longed to jump up and cry: "Look, what stops you selling up and rushing back to this Moscow you're so keen on?"

This is not a production that allows the audience to sit back and allow a sense of the sadness of things to flow gently over it. In an odd sort of way there are touches of what, in an earlier age, would have been called Agitprop: watch this and do otherwise. But, that said, there are also areas in certain performances that emphasise the ninnyish more than Chekhov must have intended. Olga's first speech, reminding her sisters that their father was a general and died a year ago this very day, is Chekhov's feeblest opening, but Dinah Stabb rattles through it and Stafford-Clark finds no way to make her remarks seem likely.

Kate Ashfield's Irina is callow in her first scene, reasonably enough as the baby of the house, but in Act III, years later, the same tones persist. She is crosser but no wiser. Perhaps this is Stafford-Clark imposing limitation on her growth, but it comes across as a shortcoming of performance.

Three Sisters
Lyric, W6

In complicity with the sisters, their equivalents among the men become boobies: Terry emphasises the hollowness of Vershinin; likewise Barnaby Kay with Tuzenbach, although he is often comically fatuous. Among the evil-doers, Lloyd Hutchinson's Soliony, watching his rival through the windows, forever lurking, is a strong nihilist force.

The production alters the end by reintroducing the spinning-top that brought a moment of serious sorrow into Act I. As it dies, all the characters reappear, even the dead baron, and stare out at us, as if through glass: doomed incompetents, who philosophised (some of them) about the future, but found no way to create it.

JEREMY KINGSTON

MARILYN KINGWILL



Dinah Stabb, Catherine Russell and Kate Ashfield let *life pass them by as Chekhov's rather drippy Three Sisters*

DONALD COOPER



The wedding scene in *Mind Millie for Me*, the English version of Feydeau's farce played for laughs and bitter truths in Peter Hall's production

Gags with a chokehold

This is by a dramatist whose "every character is an animal alone in the bourgeois jungle, isolated by selfishness and turning predator to survive". Far from sympathising with them, "we watch them dispassionately as they thrash *around in extremis*". Their words are "a means to hold desperation at bay and hide insecurities, for every person is sooner or later in a terrible crisis and their only way out is a fever of words".

Who is Peter Hall talking about in his programme note? O'Neill or Williams? Early Pinter or mid-period Euripides? No, the answer is a famous farceur. Hall has collaborated with Nicki Frei on an adaptation of Feydeau's *Occupe-toi d'Amelie* and, helped by Gerald Scarfe's grotesque sets and monster wigs, given the play a revival that does not try to render the charmless charming or the French cosily Anglo-Saxon.

I found the evening funny, sometimes very funny, occasionally hilarious: but I saw why most of the first-night audience were not indulging in those curious acrobatics known as rolling in the aisles.

Mind Millie for Me
Theatre Royal, Haymarket

After all, the laws of farce decree that laughter comes when staid characters are in danger of being shocked or conventional ones are plunged into morally threatening situations. A bishop looks funnier than a prostitute if forced to hide in a cupboard, and funnier still if he is ignominiously escaping a respectable husband, not some tolerant dandy.

But all the major characters here scorn bourgeois values, and some of them are pretty nasty people. Imagine a farce involving coke-snorting Sloanes and promiscuous Henries in SW1, and you have not only the modern equivalent of *Mind Millie* but an indication of the problems facing a modern director and his audience.

Felicity Kendal's Millie, a spritely sort content to confess herself a "tart", is the most appealing character on stage. But she lives in a world where it is more acceptable for people to betray their spouses than their current lovers or mistresses. So when Nicholas le Prevost's Etienne leaves Millie in the charge of his best friend, Neil Pearson's Marcel, he does not expect the two of them to fall drunkenly into bed; and, when they do, he determines on revenge. The fact that Marcel will inherit a fortune on his marriage gives him his chance. He organises a fake wedding between confirmed bachelor Marcel and cheery slut Millie, and then ensures it is real.

As always with Feydeau, there are complications galore. Peter Blythe's sublimely vain Prince of Palestria pursues Millie, ending with his trousers flung from the window and (an overbroad touch, maybe) his body festooned in vast orange long johns. John Fraser podgily appears with green bowler, matching plus-fours and a frizz of ginger hair as the Dutch uncle responsible for giving Marcel his inheritance.

It all culminates with wild recriminations in the exotic bedroom (frilly drapes, statue of Zeus as swan) Scarfe has designed for Millie; but not before a scene in a weird green registry office in which her louche hangers-on slyly congratulate the stout party they believe to be an actor, but really is the local mayor, on conducting so credible a ceremony.

It is harum-scarum stuff, played with huge zest by a cast that also includes Carmen du Sautoy as a lascivious countess and Robert Lang as Millie's corrupt-copper father. At times you could call it cruel, even brutal, but never soft, never sentimental. Does it sound absurd to say that only those with tough hides will enjoy a farce written as long ago as 1908, and that even they may not laugh a lot? Probably; but that's Feydeau for you.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

JAZZ

Subtle Lee: it's heads he wins

THE criticism most frequently levelled at alto player Lee Konitz is that his music appeals so strongly to the heads of his listeners that it can miss their hearts altogether.

Konitz's front-line partner for his week's residency at Ronnie Scott's, Canadian-born trumpeter Kenny Wheeler, is also no stranger to this sort of criticism. Self-effacing to a fault, he depends, like Konitz, on long, delicately spun lines of improvisation and on the affecting plangency of his tone to make an impression, rather than on overt passion betokened by a sweating brow.

It was therefore a fair bet that Konitz and Wheeler — backed by the local-ish rhythm section of guitarist John Parricelli, bassist Mick Hutton and drummer Stephen Keogh — would not turn in a Jazz at the Philharmonic-type grandstanding performance culminating in crowd-pleasing chorus after chorus of *Lester Leaps In*.

Controlled, considered music, often with punning titles — Konitz's 1979 reworking of his famous nine-piece *Birth of the Cool* material came out under the title *Yes Yes Nonet* — is both men's hallmark, and that is exactly what they provided in a well-paced set consisting mainly of

Lee Konitz
Ronnie Scott's

thoughtful originals interspersed with the odd standard.

Much has been made of Konitz's importance in the early 1950s as a pioneering dispenser — with his mentor, pianist Lennie Tristano — of a cooler, less flashily frenetic alternative to be-bop, and the 68-year-old altoman's own compositions, particularly his nearly five-decades-old set-closer, *Subconscious-Lee*, neatly illustrated just how he has attained this reputation.

From a relatively familiar starting-point — usually either a blues or the chord sequence of a standard — he and Wheeler crafted fragile, deceptively languid-sounding improvisations whose effect depended not on the fire and virtuosic bluster of bop but rather on subtle melodic inventiveness and nuances of tone and timbre.

Such being the band's strengths, neither Konitz's choice of standard — a subdued, gently loping *What's New* — nor his decision to include Billy Strayhorn's quintessential Johnny Hodges ballad feature, *A Flower is a Lovesome Thing*, was a great surprise. Unusually, though, instead of simply bathing in the considerable glow of the latter's ravishingly lovely tune, both Konitz and Wheeler used it as a vehicle for almost wilfully cerebral exploration.

If such intensity sounds a little austere, however, the singer Claire Martin, whose sparky but sophisticated performances are always a delight, is appearing opposite Konitz, and her infectious vitality neatly complements his more introspective approach.

CHRIS PARKER

THIS WEEK'S SPECIALS

THE TIMES
THE THEATRE CLUB

LONDON
Regent's Park
Open Air Theatre
● *SUMMER is icumen in*, and Theatre Club members are getting set for Shakespeare in the park: top-price seats, a free programme and a picnic of smoked salmon sandwiches, strawberries and cream and a quarter bottle of champagne for only £21 per person. Choose from: *The Comedy of Errors* (May 29-30, June 3-4). Starring Paula Wilcox as Adriana. *The Tempest* (June 17-19). Starring Denis Quilley as Prospero.
Tel 0171-486 2431/1933 (Mon to Sat, 10am to 6pm) to book.

BRIGHTON
The Dome
May 9
● TCHAIKOVSKY'S opera *The Enchantress* has its British stage premiere 109 years after it was written — and Theatre Club members can be there on the first night. Two tickets (£15.50 or £22.50) for the price of one. Tel 01273 709709

NEWBURY
Watermill Theatre
May 14-June 8
● MICHAEL PENNINGTON plays Archie Rice in John Osborne's *The Entertainer*. Tickets £7.20 (normally £10.95) for weekday performances and £8.75 (normally £13.95) on Fri and Sat. Tel 01635 46044

HULL
New Theatre
May 20
● GERRY MARSDEN, lead singer with Gerry and the Pacemakers, takes a journey through a magical time in *Ferry Cross the Mersey*. Two tickets for the price of one (normally £16.50) for the first night. The first three callers will be able to meet the cast after the show. Tel 01482 22bb55

CARDIFF
New Theatre
May 14, 15
● DONALD SINDEN stars in *That Good Night*, a new drama by N.J. Crisp. Best stalls seats £6 (normally £10, £12.50). Tel 01222 878889

MOLD
Theatr Clwyd
May 28-31
● BARRY FOSTER stars in a stage version of the classic thriller, *Double Indemnity*. Two £11 tickets for the price of one. Tel 01352 755114

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DANCE: A world first for the ice skater Christopher Dean; plus, a brilliant flamenco *Carmen*

So who needs skates?

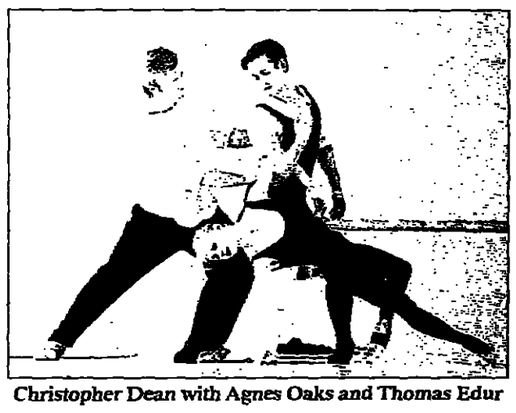
The other half of Torvill and Dean made his debut as a ballet choreographer in Cambridge on Tuesday night. There wasn't a blade in sight, although Jayne Torvill did make a personal appearance, much to the delight of the audience at the Corn Exchange who queued for her autograph. Torvill and Dean are still a magic combination as far as the British public is concerned, but what did Christopher Dean think he was doing when he decided to exchange figure skates for pointe shoes?

Making more magic, as it turned out, Dean's impeccable sense of what makes popular theatre proved as astute on the ballet stage as it has for the past 20 years on the ice rink. His new *Encounters* for English National Ballet is a beautifully packaged piece of work, with an interesting premise cleverly realised and lots of good choreography that was superbly danced on opening night. It deserves to be the hit it will undoubtedly become.

The piece is set to six songs by Paul Simon — pop music goes down a treat with ballet audiences — and is loosely based on Dean's own life. That life, as revealed in *Encounters*, has been defined by women: his mother, stepmother, two wives and, of course, his famous ice dancing partner.

Thomas Edur moves through Dean's memory world, melancholic, ecstatic, bemused and confused, part of it and apart from it at the same time. The soundtrack sets the tone for each encounter: *Mother and Child Reunion* is particularly tender; *Still Crazy After All These Years* is an affectionate celebration of Dean's enduring triumph with Torvill; *50 Ways to Leave Your Lover* is a feisty number remembering his stormy marriage to the French skater Isabelle Duchesnay.

Dean's choreography flows with all the momentum of skating: positions are not used to punctuate the dance, but glide seamlessly through smooth movement phrases. Some of the basics in a skater's vocabulary are overused — there are too many pirouettes, for instance — but the fluidity of the writing ensures that the dancers look incredibly unrestrained. And where the allusions to skating are intentional, as in the lifts in the pas de deux with the Torvill character, they are neatly incorporated into a classical context.



Christopher Dean with Agnes Oaks and Thomas Edur

English National Ballet
Corn Exchange, Cambridge

The rest of the creative team behind *Encounters* have also ensured its success. Peter Mumford's gorgeous mood lighting and Fotini Dimou's lucid set and costumes help to point the way to interpreting the lead character's various relationships. Dean was smart to cast Edur as himself: there simply isn't a finer male dancer working in Britain today and Edur shares Dean's own special performing quality of self-effacing sexual charisma. Agnes Oaks, the woman with whom Edur's character finds resolution (as *Bridge Over Troubled Water* wafts across the sound system), looked radiantly happy to be back on stage after suffering so long with injury.

The evening had begun rather disastrously, though, with artistic director Derek Deane gamely stepping out onto the stage to inform us that due to "serious production difficulties" Matthew Hart's new ballet *Blitz* would not, after all, be receiving its world premiere on Tuesday night. The audience was offered a 25 per cent refund by way of apology.

DEBRA CRAINE

Undying passion

Together with Carlos Saura, the film-maker, Antonio Gades proves that flamenco has a future. If you liked the 1983 Gades-Saura *Carmen* on film, then rush to see their version on stage.

As in the film, Gades and Saura give *Carmen* a contemporary edge by threading a modern parallel narrative through it. The curtain rises on the Compania Antonio Gades working in a studio, but soon the divisions become blurred. Are we watching a rehearsal of *Carmen* or a real story? Is Juan Alba engaged in a costume fitting for his role as he scrutinises himself in his *torero* uniform, or is he actually the *torero*, soon to challenge Gades's Don José for Carmen's affections?

Never mind that Spain's sexiest male star since El Cordobes now moves stiffly and sketchily and keeps his solos brief. Aged 59, but still tall and handsome, Gades returns to London after an absence of more than 20 years.

His own dancing emphasises arms and poses; but this restriction slots in smoothly with an overall choreography that makes you realise flamenco can be what it wants. It can be boldly and modernly minimalist, as in a gestural solo for Juan Alba, hands grasping and pulling the air. It can paint mood and character, as it does with the furious footbeats or snakily seductive torso of Stella Arauzo, a wonderful Carmen, her dress like a splash of scarlet. It can ingeniously adapt tradition as it does with the *bastones*, sticks normally used as percussive accompaniments in certain dances, which it transforms into duelling weapons for Gades and Candy Roman as Carmen's husband.

Compania Antonio Gades
Sadler's Wells

Carmen cracks the two tricky problems of flamenco: how to update it, and how to adapt it to storytelling without falling into cliché and histrionics. With great skill, Gades and Saura achieve drama of the highest order. The studio setting becomes a crucible in which dance, taped extracts from the opera, live singing and guitar fuse.

Heart-stopping moments will remain forever in my memory: the long moments of stillness, for example, when Gades's Don José hangs his head in shame at his punishment, his image multiplied by the studio mirrors behind; his rejection by Carmen, watched with bated breath by a semi-circle of onlookers who break into vicious cheers.

Above all I will remember the wonderful mix of old and young performers in the solo turns of the *Buleria* section, all as high-spirited and real as contemporary Andalusians in some village celebration. In innovating flamenco, Gades does not forget its roots.

NADINE MEISNER

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Penelope Lively on A. S. Byatt's bold return to the Happenings and happenings of the Sixties, when language and life were inextricably entwined

Truth in many tongues

AT ONE point in this capacious novel, Frederica, the central figure, tries a Burroughs experiment in cutting up prose. She cuts up a letter from her husband's lawyer about their impending divorce, a passage from E. M. Forster, a passage from D. H. Lawrence, and contemplates the resulting kaleidoscope of words. This is the Sixties, when the use and function of language were being redefined.

Cut-ups produce gobbledegook, but they also make a garbled point. *Babel Tower* — as prose, as fiction — leaves the reader with the heady feeling of having met a rational, intelligent, cut-up.

You feel that you have read several books — not randomly jumbled but skilfully interwoven. Moreover, the emphasis, the flavour, will shift according to the reader's response. You may feel that you have read a commentary on the values of the Sixties, or an allegory about the nature or evil, or a discussion of the use of language, or a discourse about snails and evolution — each with asides about environmental destruction, the nature of childhood and commentaries on some of the central literature of the century.

The novel's 600 pages include all of the above. *And* they tell a story — or rather, part of a story, since this is the third volume of a *planned quartet. The characters of The Virgin in the Garden* and *Still Life* are back, along with a whole lot of new ones, supplying by the end an esoteric cast of dozens.

The *roman fleuve* is a courageous undertaking. One of the intriguing aspects is the shift in authorial approach, richly demonstrated here. This is a very different book from *The Virgin in the Garden* — the house style is immediately recognisable but it has mutated into something even more expansive, more discursive. There is a further and fuller development of the concept of the book within the book, the narrative within the narrative. *Babel Tower* is above all a book about books, an expression of intertextuality, a novel about language.

BABEL TOWER
By A. S. Byatt
Chatto & Windus, £16.99

Through the contemporary story runs another — an elaborate and increasingly horrific fantasy. For much of the book its purpose is mysterious. Indeed, there can be a jolt of irritation when it reappears, breaking into the more immediate matter of Frederica, her life and her associates. The inset narrative grows more and more disturbing and eventually

RICHARD WAITE



Byatt: courageous writing

breaks out for what it is — another book, *Babbletower, A Tale for the Children of our Time*, written by a manic and deeply Sixties character called Jude Mason and read by Frederica in the course of her work as a sifter of the slush pile for a publisher.

Babbletower is published and duly prosecuted for obscenity, according to the spirit of the times, thus taking us into the final and crucial part of *Babel Tower*, in which a word for word account of the trial follows immediately on an equally precise account of Frederica's grilling by lawyers in her divorce hearing.

The obscenity trial is the culmination of the novel's minute examination of Sixties *mores*. Those of us who were around and sentient at the time will shudder (or not, as the case may be) at its evocation of that period's excesses: the abuse of language, the denial of meaning. The novel ends with a superbly realised Happening. Those for whom a Happening is a historical concept can start here: this is pretty much how it was, heaven help us.

Antonia Byatt's fiction has always been generously furnished. *The Virgin in the Garden* supplies the interior decor of a Fifties lower middle-class home in such evocative detail that you can feel the texture of the uncut moquette. In *Babel Tower*, the accessories of Sixties living — the clothes, the food, the fashionable reading — are as minutely catalogued. Social historians of the future will sing hymns of gratitude. The dinner party repertoire of the Elizabeth David reading classes, the structure of a Courrèges dress — it is all here. Plus digressions into the ways of making a daisy chain or reflections on a painting or a text.

This is compendious writing, and may not be to all tastes. But decor, dresses and daisy chains are ancillary — and good fun to my mind. What is central to the novel is far more important, and that is the discussion of language. And if this by necessity forges away from the narrative into meditations and arguments and descriptions, then so be it. These are what language is for.

THE SECTION in which Alexander — the charismatic playwright of *The Virgin in the Garden* — becomes a member of a government-appointed committee inquiring into the *teaching* of English (echoing the author's own experience) is an unashamed diversion. For me, the discussion and the inherent comment made absorbing reading. Others will no doubt be more seized by the elaborate and profoundly horrifying Sadeian narrative within the narrative — the *Babbletower* novel. *Babel Tower* is a big, bold book and a dimension of its success is this very profligacy — it does indeed speak with many tongues and readers will hear as they choose, according to inclination.

Who was that masked playwright?

Anthony Holden

WHO WROTE SHAKESPEARE?
By John Michell
Thames & Hudson, £16.95

Somewhere in the world, it is said, a book on Shakespeare is published every day — presumably including those such as this which suggest that all the others are wasting their time. There was no Elizabethan writer called William Shakespeare, or Shaxpere, or Shagsbur, or any of the other 75 contemporary spellings of his name. The works attributed to him were really written by Bacon or Marlowe, by the Earls of Oxford, Derby, Rutland, Essex or Southampton, by Sir Walter Raleigh, Cardinal Wolsey or even Queen Elizabeth I herself.

The Shakespeare canon contains too much wisdom, learning and expertise to have emerged from one mortal brain. Its vocabulary runs to some 20,000 words, as opposed to Milton's 8,000, or the 300-400 of the Stratford clod of the day. The expert legal, medical, military, naval, courtly, country, classical and floral themes throughout the work can only have been deployed by a trained lawyer, doctor, soldier, sailor, nobleman and/or scholar-gardener.

No contemporary document makes any clear reference to a leading playwright of the day named William Shakespeare. There is no reliable portrait, bust or signature. Anti-Stratfordians thus refuse to accept the cult of the "simple English countryman, deeply imbued with his native culture, who rose far above his educated contemporaries to set a literary standard which has never since been equalled". Far from penning his collected works, this Shakespeare may even have been unable to read or write.

Or, in the smug academic joke, the works of Shakespeare were written by another man of the same name. In his entertaining review of all other candidates, John Michell capitalises on this ambiguity by distinguishing William Shakespeare, the man to whom the plays are attributed, from Will Shakspere, the Stratford rustic who may or may not have written them.

He opens with Mark Twain's mockery of Sir Sidney Lee for producing a 720-page life of a man who exists far *more reliably in the popular* imagination than in any public archive. There follow such cases as that of the scholarly book entitled *Shakespeare the Boy*, about "a period of his life on which not a single fact is known". Characteristically, Michell merely notes this and moves on, with engagingly



The mysterious Shaxpere

ironic detachment, wearing his scholarship more lightly than many of those whose work he chronicles.

The cases for Bacon, Oxford, Marlowe and others are duly summarised, each in its way beguiling — not least Rutland's 1603 royal embassy to Denmark, which gave him a chance to check the view from the ramparts of Elsinore against the "high eastern hill" over which walks Hamlet's dawn in russet mantle clad.

There are a few omissions, such as the amply documented case for the son of Stratford acquiring his wisdom during a spell in the household of a Lancashire nobleman; and Bacon dies two years before becoming Lord Chancellor. But these are rare lapses in a useful survey of fiercely disputed territory.

Having remained scrupulously impartial throughout, Michell finally compromises on a venal Shakspere willing to let his name appear on texts produced by others, adding a few personal refinements spiced with a judicious dash of plagiarism. For all his formidable research, however, he and his ilk will never deter such fond fools as this reviewer, currently engaged on yet another biography of a man who may never have existed.

The play's the thing, all thirty-something of them, wherein this fugitive Elizabethan prodigy will forever catch the conscience of each passing generation. Those of us who can't resist peering behind the arras are merely come to praise Shakespeare, not to bury him.

A millennial balancing act

Earth in peril: **Colin Tudge** wonders if the end is really nigh

METEOSAT 2



Three cheery and emininently readable volumes to launch us into the 21st century — each telling us that we have startlingly little chance of getting through it. Time's up; the party's over; we've had our chips; an entire flock of emu-sized chickens has chosen this time to come home to roost. Taken all in all, this is not a good time to be young, or a good world to bring babies into.

As Joel Cohen records in *How Many People Can The Earth Support? the Atrahasis* epic of Babylon, from around 1600 BC, dwells on the creeping threat of overpopulation: and although we are still here, the creep is now a gallop. There are now almost six billion of us (6,000 million) — a milestone to be passed by about AD 2000. The percentage rate of growth has dropped from its peak in the 1960s but the absolute increase is faster than ever because numbers are greater.

If numbers continue to rise even at the present, apparently modest 1.6 per cent per year, then, because of compound interest, the world population would double within about 40 years. So it would reach 12 billion by 2040, 24 billion by 2080, 48 billion by 2120, and 96 billion by 2160. There are many people in the world who argue that every human birth brings joy to God; but few would be silly enough to believe that this already overstretched world could support the 30 billion or so who would, if present trends continue, be with us by the end of the 21st century.

The poise is extremely delicate, and intriguingly Micawberish. Thus, if couples average ever so minutely fewer than two children, then populations must eventually fall. If couples average ever so slightly more than two, then populations rise; and even the tiniest growth produces massive increases within a few decades. But populations level out only when deathrates increase or birthrates fall. Only the latter is acceptable; but when birthrates fall the population structure is skewed towards oldies, thus alarming bosses, trade unionists, and generals alike.

Cohen might have done more to answer his own question; perhaps guessing that we might support 20 billion who were content to live like Greek villagers but *probably less than a billion in* the style of California. But he brings eloquence to a problem of supreme importance, and should be read.

Meanwhile, in *Our Stolen Future*, Colborn, Myers and Dumanoski describe a world made dangerous by long-lasting chemicals and *their breakdown products* which, among other things, imitate the hormones of human beings and other animals and hence may influence the way we grow, reproduce, and even how we think and treat each other. With a succession of good intentions we have mickey-finned the world from pole to pole with the most insidious agents of chemical suicide that anyone could have conceived.

The deep flaw has been overambition and a series of philosophical errors. We have assumed that we know more than we do; and we have assessed the pending problem of the time in terms of problems past. Thus Paul Muller received a Nobel Prize in 1948 for his development of DDT — here at last was a potential answer to malaria and the principal pests of the world's crops. Demonstrably, DDT was non-toxic — but only when judged by the measures of the day. Who could have guessed that its breakdown products might accumulate in the environment and in the fat reserves of predatory animals and render them effectively infertile?

Yet, you might say, this does not seem particularly new. So why do we do so little about it? Because societies build their economies around particular technologies and it becomes extremely difficult to change course. But much of our intransigence has to do with incredulity. We cannot quite believe the horrors that are promised; a world-scale crash if the world truly becomes overpopulated; or the fading of our species through loss of fertility as we continue *to change the chemistry of our* surroundings.

John Leslie's *The End of the World* shows that such scepticism is misplaced. There are, he says, many reasons why the extinction of the human species within a reasonably short period is all too plausible.

These reasons include the old familiars — nuclear war, disease, the loss of the ozone layer and the rise of greenhouse gases. Less familiar risks, but still eminently plausible, include volcanic eruptions (which may have wiped out the dinosaurs), asteroids (which probably did wipe them out), a nearby supernova, a breakdown in the biosphere simply because complex systems do break down from time to time, and finally, some other factor that *we have not thought of yet.*

Possible man-made disasters include a reluctance to raise children (already seen in some rich countries), disaster from genetic engineering, and the collapse of high-tech agriculture (for here is fragility indeed).

Leslie, a Professor of Philosophy at Guelph, also lists *philosophic reasons: the suggestion* of some religions that God will always bail us out; a formal lack of concern for children not yet born; the relativists' suggestion that nothing is "really" bad.

But Leslie devotes much of his book to a quaint notion ascribed to the Cambridge cosmologist Brandon Carter. *Statistically, this idea says,* each of usalive today is more likely to be usual than unusual. If we are usual, then we are not likely to be among the small percentage who were born near the time our species first evolved. It is far more likely that our present population represents our species in its maturity. This being so, our species probably does not have long to run. The argument is odd, and I may have contracted it too much. But the gist is heuristic: it suggests that the imminence of our decline is not implausible, but positively likely.

Leslie's message is bleak but his touch is light. Wit, after all, is preferable to the desperation which, in the circumstances, seems the only other response.

Colin Tudge's latest book, The Day Before Yesterday, *has just been awarded the BP Conservation Book of the Year award.*

HOW MANY PEOPLE CAN THE EARTH SUPPORT?
By Joel E. Cohen *W. W. Norton, £22.50*

OUR STOLEN FUTURE
By Theo Colborn, John Peterson Myers and Diane Dumanoski *Little, Brown, £18.99*

THE END OF THE WORLD
The Science and Ethics of Human Extinction
By John Leslie *Routledge, £16.99*

The going gets tough for Joe

Ronald Brownstein

THE SINS OF THE FATHER
Joseph P. Kennedy and the Dynasty He Founded
By Ronald Kessler
Hodder & Stoughton, £20

What is it about the Kennedys that continues so to fascinate Americans? When John F. Kennedy Jr — the hunkish son of the former President — fell into a heated spat with his girlfriend in New York's Central Park, the tabloid television shows rushed a videotape on to the air as if they had just discovered footage of O. J. Simpson dropping the bloody gloves.

Yet even by these voracious standards, Ronald Kessler's biography of Joseph P. Kennedy, the family's patriarch, isn't bound to stir much excitement. For all its accounts of financial, political and sexual chicanery, this is a dreary, lifeless work. Joe Kennedy, of course, provides Kessler no shortage of ammunition. Bootlegger, Wall Street corner-cutter, draft-dodger, anti-Semite, counsellor of appeasement toward the Nazis, serial philanderer, political string-puller, domineering father, the elder Kennedy combined greed with self-absorption and brackish political views into a singularly unappealing package. His sins are numerous enough, indeed, to fill a book.

RANGE PICTURES



A face of family unity over a network of complex relationships: John, Jean, Patricia, Joseph and Robert Kennedy at Patricia's wedding to Peter Lawford in 1954

Kessler is an industrious reporter and he's added a few pertinent details to well-known stories of Joe Kennedy's depredations; he makes a strong case that the Kennedy daughter Rosemary was not mentally retarded, but merely suffering from clinical depression, when her father chose to have her lobotomised.

But mostly Kessler seems only to collect well-worn stories from other (usually better) books. If it's news to you that Joe Kennedy pitched the woo with Gloria Swanson in Hollywood during the 1920s, then this book might be an eye-opener. For everyone else, opening Kessler's book is like opening a refrigerator full of mouldering old crusts.

Kessler's leaden prose doesn't make the slog any easier. The Kennedys are nothing if not colourful. Yet Kessler renders them inert: even his subject remains stubbornly two-dimensional, a distant caricature of evil. Kessler calls him Joe, but never creates any sense of intimacy. "Joe's" life took him from one evocative locale to another — from infant Hollywood, to the frantic first years of the New Deal, to England as (a noxiously sympathetic to the Nazis) American Ambassador in the days of the Blitz. But Kessler brings none of these places to life. Even the marriage between Joe and Rose Kennedy is more vividly portrayed in Nigel Hamilton's compelling look at young Jack Kennedy, *JFK: Reckless Youth*.

Kessler most clearly demonstrates his shallowness in his cursory treatment of Joe Kennedy's sons, especially Jack and his brother Robert. Robert Kennedy was a complex politician who ultimately inspired millions before his assassination: all Kessler sees in him is an acolyte of Joseph McCarthy who cheated at touch football. In Jack Kennedy — who despite all his sexual misadventures proved a sturdy and thoughtful leader — Kessler sees nothing but a pliant tool of his father who liked being President because it improved his love life. With such vapid conclusions, Kessler reveals far more about himself than his targets.

Kessler's soggy tome takes its place on a lengthening shelf of *biographies meant* to pulverise their subjects. The rules of the genre are well-established: any damaging story, especially those exposing an over-active libido, are to be squeezed in, no matter how flimsy the source. To maintain the purity of the scaly portrait, any achievements (such as Joe Kennedy's surprisingly effective work regulating the stock market for Franklin Roosevelt) must be glossed over. Joe Kennedy certainly deserves anything he gets, even a book as mean-spirited and witless as this. But Kessler's readers deserve better.

Ronald Brownstein *is National Political Correspondent of the* Los Angeles Times

Michael Arditti
Pagan and Her Parents



'Required reading wherever the nuclear family is smallmindedly lauded as the one true ideal: a case of the unputdownable in pursuit of the unshakeable'
The Times

PUBLISHED BY SINCLAIR-STEVENSON

هكذا من الأصل

مكبرا من الأصل

Straight from the muscle of the heart

Aidan Day on two fine Scottish voices, and the ancestry of the Caledonian literary renaissance

MAVIS BELFRAGE
By Alasdair Gray
Bloomsbury, £13.99

WHERE YOU FIND IT
By Janice Galloway
Cape, £9.99

Alasdair Gray has written an odd "romantic" novel. Gray is, of course, one of the originating figures in the renaissance of Scottish fiction that has been taking place during the last 15 years or so. His name is linked — as a Glasgow novelist — with James Kelman, but the "renaissance" includes other, younger writers such as A. L. Kennedy, Janice Galloway and Irvine Welsh, not all of whom are Glasgow-based. There is nothing programmatic about this flowering of Scottish fiction. Yet, that said, it is still possible to talk about some common tendencies in the writing.

In his seminal 1981 novel *Lanark*, for example, Alasdair Gray found a way of combining Scottish urban realism with a fantastic dimension reminiscent of the writings of someone like Jorge Luis Borges. This mixture of fictional modes is reinvented by Irvine Welsh in his 1995 *Marabou Stork Nightmares*, where the alienation of being brought up in an underprivileged Edinburgh housing estate is explored through a character who lies, in hospital, refusing to come out of a coma so that he may continue to pursue his surreal fantasies and remain untroubled by the real world.

Odd though Gray's new novel is, neither surreal fantasy nor social realism are especially prominent in either *Mavis Belfrage* or the five shorter tales that accompany the novel. Colin Kerr, the "hero" of Mavis Belfrage is a pedestrian college lecturer who irritates the hell out of his students by refusing to take a personal position over anything he is teaching. He falls for one of his students, Mavis Belfrage, who sleeps with him and who moves in with him for a while. Shocked by the imaginative repression she finds in Colin, Mavis at one point exclaims: "I wish I could shake and shake you till you came alive": she leaves Colin for another man.

A few months later she revisits Colin and finds he is leaving to take up a job in Zambia. It turns out that Colin is paradoxically grateful for Mavis' cold treatment of him: it has jolted him into self-assertion. But for all that Colin now seems to have come to life, Mavis declares that he has turned into "the sort of man I most detest", too "damnably sure" of himself. And the story ends.

It is not much use trying to make sense of this narrative at a realistic level. Everything is highly stylised. It is allegorical fiction and a clue to one of its meanings is given on the first page when we hear about "Classical and Romantic theories of education": the Classical associated with a system that forces the individual to conform and the Romantic with an approach that heightens a person's sense of individuality.

Reason as against imagination, boredom as against excitement, safety as against danger, might be other ways of stating this contrast. The allegory of *Mavis Belfrage* is talking, in part, at least, about the impossibility of ever being able to reconcile the contrary impulses that make up the state of being in love. No sooner has Colin come alive as Mavis wished than she prefers him as he was: "safe and sober". This does not seem a particularly original or striking message, true though it may be.



Where *Mavis Belfrage* does achieve an interesting effect is through its intense stylisation, which makes it teasingly difficult to work out the authorial tone. Stylised as it is, this fiction contrasting dull Colin and imaginative Mavis may also plausibly be read as a dramatisation of the tensions which may fissure an individual mind. Looked at this way the novel is a variation on the theme of the divided mind: a theme which, while treated in radically different ways, runs through much of Scottish fiction as a whole, from James Hogg's *Confessions of a Justified Sinner*, first published in the early 19th century, through Robert Louis Stevenson's *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, to Irvine Welsh's portrayal of the dissociated psyche in *Marabou Stork Nightmares*.



Psychological dissociation is also the preoccupation of Janice Galloway's 1989 novel *The Trick is to Keep Breathing*, which presents the mind of a woman suffering a psychological collapse. The stories in Galloway's wonderful new collection, *Where You Find It*, do not deal with such a severe condition of mental breakdown. But their vignettes of different kinds of human relationship assume that powerful feelings always contain a dimension of disturbance.

The different obsessions that Galloway dramatises in these stories are marked by her characteristic, almost hallucinatory focusing on detail. The title-story of the volume, *Where You Find It*, tells of a prostitute's passion for her pimp's kisses. She never has conventional sex with him, since her sexual drive is displaced from the genitalia on to the mouth and tongue: "You can feel the wee cord that keeps his tongue on stretching, pulling up from the soft veiny mass on the floor of his mouth, tightening to its limit like it might uproot". *Valentine* has a woman describing her own and a woman friend's Valentine's Day. Her friend is eating heart-shaped sandwiches made with a cutter that she has bought to surprise her man: "Perfect pink hearts of ham, the grain of the muscle severed clean at the edge of the bread". A cutting of the heart is at the heart of this story, since the story-teller implicity grasps what her own lover does not, that something is going seriously wrong with their relationship. Or there is a story, no less claustrophobic, called *Waiting for Marilyn*, about a woman who is secretly, compulsively in love with the girl who cuts her hair. Or another, *Someone Had To*, so terrible it's hard to read again, spoken by the stepfather of a young girl he abuses.

Many of these short stories are, in fact, dramatic monologues, which accounts for their atmospheres, situated just this side of monomania. The speakers reveal something about themselves that they may not be aware of and the reader is left to judge them. With this kind of writing being produced, the continuing revival of Scottish fiction looks healthy, vigorous and exciting.

Aidan Day is Reader in English Literature at the University of Edinburgh

No sign of Eskimo snow

THE SEEDS OF SPEECH
Language Origin and Evolution
By Jean Aitchison
Cambridge University Press, £25

Randolph Quirk

A long with a rather misconceived notion about the number of Eskimo words for snow, there is one other thing that sticks in the mind of undergraduates in linguistics. This is that the origin of language has been a taboo subject since the Linguistic Society of Paris so ruled in 1866. Professional linguists have indeed been maintaining a generally lofty silence, ignoring popular interest in hunches about bird song, monkeys, sea shanties, and "the plain fact that my dog understands every single thing I say".

A silence, that is, until a decade or so ago when language scholars got the habit of peeping into the laboratories of psychologists, zoologists, anthropologists, and archaeologists (none of whom of course had felt any particular pressure to be silent on the issue).

The peeping gave rise to what are called "hyphen linguists", and these new breeds — especially perhaps neuro-linguists — started dusting down old theories and dreaming up newish ones. Speculative talk about the origins of talk is on the way to achieving some thing like respectability again in language circles, and although it may seem early days to attempt a popular synthesis of such speculation, few who know her can be surprised that Jean Aitchison should be among the first to do so.

A hyphen linguist herself (socio- and psycho-, to mention but two), she has written copiously on such themes as "The Articulate Mammal", "Chimps, Children, and Creoles", even "Tadpoles, Cuckoos, and Multiple Births", and some of the material is put back into service again in her present book.

So Eskimo snow and Paris diktat are not the only bits with a familiar ring in *The Seeds of Speech*, which is in truth more of a laid-back and



MARY EVANS

Are there rules for making language? Swift's Gulliver with the scientists of Lagado

entertaining introduction to linguistics than the investigation of "language origin" promised in the subtitle. Aitchison does not, for instance, tell us that a century before the Paris decision, the Berlin Academy of Sciences was moving in the opposite direction. Struck by the amount of scholarly interest, Berlin encouraged more of the same by offering a prize for the best new contribution on the origin of language. The fascinating story of 18th-century observation and theorising has recently been told by Paul Salmon, embracing Locke, Leibniz, Condillac, Rousseau, Monboddo, Adam Smith, and numerous others. Only a few of these are mentioned in *Seeds*, but one cannot help feeling that in 1996 our hunches are not all that more persuasive than those of Herder, Grimm, and Darwin. Even ontogeny, in which the book sees some new plausibility, goes way back to Ernst Haeckel.

All the same (perish the thought of reactivating the Paris ban), we must be grateful to Jean Aitchison for so very readably assembling a good deal of recent work that might seem to hint at how language began. Not exhaustively, of course (no mention of M. E. Landsberg, for instance), but she tells us all about the experimentation with apes and — probably more than the evidence justifies — about the possible analogies lying among the characteristics of pidgin languages. She valuably reviews the anthropological, archaeological, and palaeontological evidence for the emergence of homo sapiens in the Rift Valley. But as for homo *loquens*, we seem to be little closer to knowing when, where, why, or how this stage was reached.

Not that we are denied deft exploration of some fascinating questions. What was the relation between brain size and the emergence of language? What was the role of gesture? Of upright posture? Of laryngeal anatomy? Of starting to use tools? Of the struggle to survive?

In such answers as the author deems it possible to offer, she is prudently inclined to exploit a wide range of epistemic modality: "Many groups of speakers might have had an embryo language, but full language may have developed among a small group whose language had evolved further than those of others. This could have enabled them to outwit existing groups, to whom they may have taught their language".

The book is liberally peppered with fetching quotations from all manner of sources, ranging from the cartoon character Charlie Brown through Lewis Carroll to "Jonathan Swift's satirical novel *Gulliver's Travels* (1762)". And as this last implies, the author goes out of her way to offer a restful read to all comers. Don't be alarmed by names like von Humboldt or Gottfried Herder: you'll always be told who, what, and when they were ("the 19th-century German philosopher-linguist Wilhelm von Humboldt"). We seem not to be expected to have prior knowledge even of "the 18th-century lexicographer Samuel Johnson."

It may be carrying authorial tact a little far, but this highly intelligent, well-read lady's academic post includes "communication" in the job description, and there can surely be few dons who are better at it.

Childhood far from the garden of Eden

THE TESTIMONY OF *TALIESIN JONES*
by Rhidian Brook
Flamingo, £9.99

Russell Celyn Jones

CHILDREN are powerless to effect changes on the world but changes in the world affect them. The eponymous hero of *The Testimony of Taliesin Jones* is an 11-year-old boy whose rural Welsh town is too insignificant to feature in his atlas and its events do not ever merit the front page news. But like Marquez's Macondo, Cymglum is also a place of miracles. Warts are cured, crooked spines are straightened and Taliesin feels a "pressure in his head" of God talking to him. He is desperate for "grown ups" to explain the order of things. Like Handicott the greengrocer, who claims his love for his fruit makes it taste better, starts Taliesin at the beginning, with Adam and Eve: "Perhaps if it had been a Golden Delicious (all juice and no flavour) she wouldn't have bothered picking it and we might still be in Eden."

The world-shattering event for Taliesin is the defection of his mother from the family to a "unisex" barber, Toni, "a professor of hair". She leaves behind her framer husband who talks to the walls and rips out telephones, Jonathan her eldest son who withdraws into rugby-hero fantasies, and Taliesin, who is trying to make sense of it all in global terms. His *a priori* melancholic disposition becomes whipped into a religious fever.

He visits preacher Preece in his chapel on the hill "like an admonishing maths teacher" and gets nothing but negative reinforcement from this old-style fire and brimstone methodist. It is Billy Jones, his piano teacher and faith healer, who, living in his bungalow, is closer to God than Preece is in his chapel. Billy's religion has been updated to therapy. He tells Taliesin that the key to faith lies in being able to express feelings. "Bottling emotion eventually makes you sick."

Thus reinforced Taliesin helps his father express himself. He offers a pomegranate, "a complicated fruit" which Handicott reckons was Eve's real choice, to his separated parents in an attempt to heal their marriage. At school he forms a gang called the Believers, having achieved cognition, when he realises that nothing will last.

But the reader knows what Taliesin cannot, that the etiology of original character lies in the exact same moment when a child doubts the sanctity of the state of childhood itself. Taliesin's integrity has been indelibly forged. What will change with age is style, the texturing of language. His conviction, his personal signature, is a miracle of parthenogenesis.

Although the theme of this novel is religious, it bears no relation to the lugubrious Welsh methodist prose sagas of the past. Instead it incorporates a sectarian spiritualism. Brook's voice has been plucked from the babbling tongues of his country and made new. He is generous to all his characters — even the school bully finds redemption — and the landscape comes alive with the transferred emotion of those people whose lives do not go as planned: "The leaves seem to be hanging on for their lives waiting for a small breeze to end it all".

This is a highly accomplished, beautiful meditation on childhood and a panacea for a cynical age.

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Requiem for a romantic revolutionary

ERSKINE CHILDERS
By Jim Ring
John Murray, £19.99

Frank Longford

TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN



Youthful poise: Childers (right) with his brother Henry

No revolution ever produced a nobler or purer spirit" (John Buchan). The quotation is taken from the new and impressive life of Erskine Childers by Jim Ring, as readable as it is deeply researched. Churchill, to whom there are many references in the index, varied in his estimates of Childers. When Childers was facing a death sentence, Churchill, Colonial Secretary, and one of the signatories of the Treaty which Childers had opposed in arms, called him "a murderous renegade". Ring quotes him later as describing Childers as a great patriot and statesman, apparently in a letter to Childers's widow. Childers, who never held ministerial office, would have overlooked the hyperbole in the generosity of atonement.

Childers was born in 1870. Educated at Haileybury and Cambridge, his father, an English professor, died when he was six. His mother was a Barton of Glendalough House, County Wicklow, which Childers came to regard as his true home. The traumatic period of his life began in 1910 when he came to settle in Ireland. With him came his wife, Molly, an American lady of celebrated charm and purpose as inflexible as his own. His official career had been that of a Committee Clerk in the House of Commons, but he had served in two wars, winning the DFC in 1916. He had written a volume in *The Times History of the Boer War*, and two technical military books. But he is still remembered today by *The Riddle of the Sands* (1903), which has been described as the first and best of spy stories.

He was no latecomer to Irish politics. Before the war he had published a solid work, *The Framework of Home Rule*. In 1913, in his small yacht, the *Asgard*, he and Molly had brought in arms for the Irish Volunteers, in response to the massive gun-running by the Orangemen in the north. In 1917, he was released from the Services to act as one of the secretaries of the ill-starred Irish Convention.

All this paled before what was to follow. He became Director of Information for the rebel Sinn Fein government and Secretary of the Irish delegation during the Treaty negotiations in the autumn of 1921. "A year later," as Jim Ring puts it, "Childers was dead, shot at dawn, according to Lloyd George, for rebellion against the liberties he had helped to win".

That, of course, is not how he saw it, or how I and his many admirers have ever seen it. Jim Ring calls him "the harbinger of liberty". It is, of course, an undeniable fact that Erskin Childers joined the armed resistance to the Free State Government, which was accepted by the great majority of the Irish people at the time.

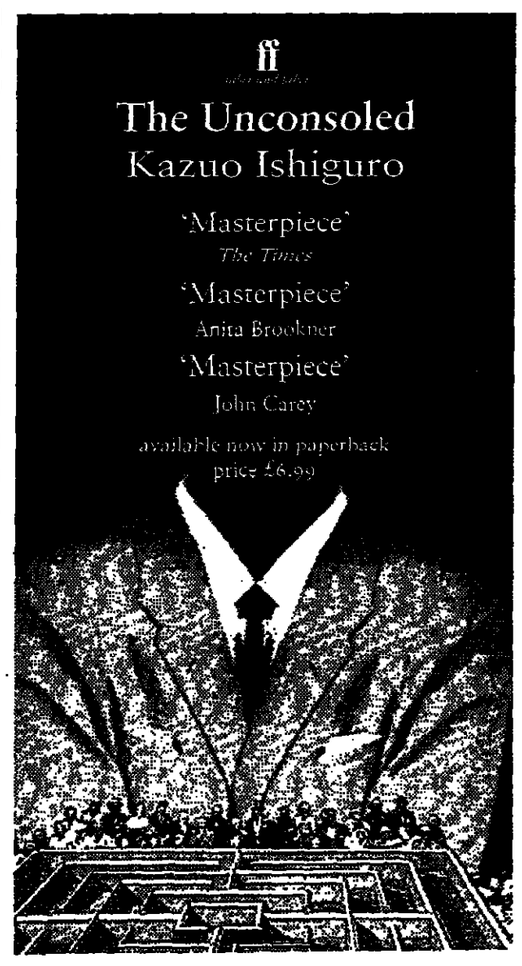
Ring poignantly describes the reluctance of the Republican command to make use of his military expertise and his decision to return to Dublin to work for the cause in a civilian capacity.

When I was writing my book on the Treaty, I stayed several times at Glendalough House and received much kindness from his cousin, Robert Barton, and his widow Molly. I was shown the exact spot in the corridor where he was arrested. I still cannot quite understand why he was carrying the revolver that had been given to him by Michael Collins. Without it, the Free State Government would have had no excuse for executing him.

Ring calls his penultimate chapter "No Greater Love", referring to his love for Molly. This gives the flavour of his final messages: "Now I am going, coming to you, heart's beloved,/ Sweetheart, comrade, wife, I shall fall/ Asleep in your arms, God above blessing us."

Can a tragedy ever have a happy ending? If ever it can, it did so in this case. De Valera never failed to express profound admiration for Childers publicly and privately. Erskine Childers shook hands with the soldiers who were about to shoot him; and when the younger Erskine visited his father before his execution, he promised to carry out his father's last wish and shake hands with those who had ordered the execution. This he did, and later went on to become President of the Irish Republic. In *Peace by Ordeal* (an account of the 1921 Anglo-Irish Treaty negotiations), I wrote in 1935: "With all his wanderings, his was a continuing journey, governed by no passing influence, guided to no ephemeral end. He lived and laboured and he fought and died, under the shadow of the eternal."

I cannot improve on those words today. I am indeed happy that he has found in Jim Ring an altogether worthy biographer.



Champions confident of hat-trick

Pollock's stamina appears equal to heavy demands

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

WARWICKSHIRE, the county champions, begin the defence of their title today at Hove, where the apparent mismatch is so striking that Sussex supporters may be tempted to turn their deckchairs away from the action. Sussex have begun their season plagued by self-doubt: the last thing they need right now is a meeting with *Shaun Pollock*.

Even the very best of young players generally take a while to find their feet in county cricket, but Pollock did not bother with such tedious ritual. *He has introduced himself* to a discerning Edgbaston public, spoilt by Donald and Lara, with 11 wickets in two Benson and Hedges Cup ties. Doubtless, he has carried it off *with boyish charm and genuine modesty, for he is not only* the emergent all-rounder of world cricket, but a thoroughly decent man.

Pollock's main concern about his season with Warwickshire is the unrelenting schedule. *Yet he is such a strong, natural athlete that it* is most unlikely to weary him, even though his workload may increase due to the absence of Tim Munton for the next six weeks, because of a cracked bone in his left forearm. Munton was also on the sidelines until June last year, while recovering from a back problem.

Nothing that occurred in the opening round of championship games will have worried Warwickshire greatly, or altered their absolute belief that a third consecutive title will be theirs, come September. *It is* hard to argue, too, with so many mediocre sides around and with last year's runners-up, Middlesex, enduring a nightmarish start to the season.

One can still glance at Warwickshire's team-sheet and wonder why they are so dominant, but the answer lies not in the names, or the *individual abilities, but in* approach, teamwork and, most importantly, the self-confidence to grasp victory when it presents itself.

This last asset, assertive*ness, seems utterly beyond* Sussex, whose diffident start must be a great frustration to their new coach, Desmond Haynes, who never had much trouble with confidence during his playing career. *Haynes* will be working on the frailties of his batsmen, in particular, for if and when they do make a competitive score, Sussex have as good a bowling attack as most.

Warwickshire are already safely into the last eight of the Benson and Hedges Cup, the one competition in which they made no show last summer and, despite a further injury to Andy Moles, their squad is as powerful as ever. Not everyone at the club can be sanguine, for they have a Test match to stage next month and their recent record in this regard is poor, but out on the *field all remains buoyant.*

Not so, Middlesex, who have lost five of their first six competitive matches. The loss of John Emburey was always going to burden them but *subsequent injuries and ill*ness have put an intolerable strain on bowling resources which, quite suddenly, look slim. Johnson's fitness remains suspect, Tufnell has *been struggling with tonsillitis* and Nash has only just arrived from the Caribbean. Only if all three play today can Middlesex be fairly judged and, even then, assessment *must be tempered by the fact* that their opponents at Lord's are Durham.

It seemed barely conceivable that Durham would deteriorate after their inevitably *shaky start to championship life with a patchwork of itinerant has-beens* and local hopefuls. But, five years into their first-class life, they have managed it. Sherwin Camp*bell, their new West Indian,* makes his championship debut today but what they really need, to avoid another wooden spoon, is rapid development from such home-grown talent as *Melvyn Betts* and *Paul* Collingwood.

Leicestershire, who won an extraordinary opening game at Derby, travel to Old Trafford, where Lancashire's main anxiety is who to leave out, and Surrey's promising start — they always seem to start promisingly — will be tested by Kent at the Oval.

Yorkshire, who play Derbyshire at Sheffield, may be the team to watch, for the maturing of their youngsters — Vaughan, Silverwood, Wharf and McGrath to the fore — could just sustain a genuine challenge this year, something that might make Warwickshire look over their shoulders with concern rather than well-merited superiority.



Sachin Tendulkar, the India vice-captain, in distinctly wary mood at Worcester yesterday. Despite lacking his usual fluency, he still scored 52. Report, page 48

Villagers stumped by Jones

BY JOHN GOODBODY

A VILLAGE cricket club is upset because Derbyshire have cancelled a scheduled fund-raising match only ten weeks before the fixture, arranged to attract money for youngsters' nets, was due to take place.

Club officials at Baslow, near Chatsworth, were surprised to receive a letter last Friday saying that Dean Jones, the former Australia player and new Derbyshire captain, preferred to use most of the county's days free from county championship and cup commitments either for resting or practice.

The club has helped to develop several youngsters who have either represented Derbyshire juniors or had trials with the county. It was hoping to raise £4,000 from the game on July 9.

Philip Tobin, a Baslow committee member, said: "We are profoundly disappointed. It means there will be a shortfall in our finances this year. We have spent time and some money in organising the fixture. We had had a letter from Derbyshire confirming the match and it is even on the county club's fixture list."

In his letter, Vic Brownett, the chairman of Derbyshire 96, which is trying to raise money for the development of the game, apologised for the time and effort the club have spent spent in organisation. He said that Jones felt that the county players "need to be focused on the first-class game."

Les Bullimore, the appeals organiser for Derbyshire 96, said that Brownett was in Singapore until Saturday but that he would be contacting his chairman when he returned.

"The position may be reviewed," he said. "It is possible that another slot for the match may be available."

Illingworth honoured

WORCESTERSHIRE have granted a benefit to Richard Illingworth, their England left-arm spinner, for next season. Illingworth, 32, who made his Worcestershire debut 14 years ago, was capped in 1986 and has played more than 500 matches for the county. He has played in nine Test matches and 21 one-day internationals and was a member of the England party for the recent tour to South Africa and the World Cup.

Worcestershire have signed the younger brother of their former seam bowler, Parvaz Mirza, who died of a heart disorder last September. Maneer Mirza, 18, is a Birmingham-born pace bowler and is at present completing his A levels.

Sherwin Campbell, the West Indies opener, makes his county championship debut for Durham against Middlesex at Lord's today. "I am looking forward to it," Campbell said. "I scored a century there against Middlesex on last summer's tour and also made 93 in the Test match."

Ma's army in retreat before Atlanta Games



David Miller, in Nanking, on the contrasting fortunes of the coach and an erstwhile pupil

Wang Junxia, the world record-holder at 10,000 and 3,000 metres and notable defector from "Ma's army", is in scintillating form at the Chinese national track and field championship trials here, but the remainder of Ma Junren's protégés are in disarray. Wang's performances over four days will strike fear into her middle-distance rivals for Atlanta.

Ma, the coaching guru, is prostrate in hospital in Peking, recovering from treatment for intestinal ulcers. In his absence, Qu Yunxia, the 1,500 metres world record-holder, and Wang Yuan failed to qualify for the 800 metres final, won in a slow time. Qu ran wretchedly in the 1,500 metres final, while Jiang Bo, Ma's brightest young athlete, dropped out of the 5,000 metres final.

This precocious band of young Chinese women runners has sorely missed the presence and guidance of their leader, and seem likely to fail even to be selected for the Olympic Games. Indications are that all is far from well in the Ma camp.

Wang Junxia, on the other hand, is back to her surging best, the form she displayed in 1993. In the heats on Tuesday, she ran away with the 10,000 metres in a time of 31min 01.76sec, which would have won the world title in Gothenburg last year, and, as with her 5,000 metres time on Sunday, 14min 51.87sec, is the best of the year. Unsurprisingly, she was almost ten seconds slower in winning the 10,000 metres final yesterday.

Wang is evidently ready to lead China's charge for gold medals at the centenary Games. With front-running tactics in the 5,000 metres as intimidating to pursuers as those once employed by Vladimir Kuts, she destroyed the field over the last four laps. Only five women — Ribeiro, Kristiansen, O'Sullivan, Meyer and Budd — have beaten her 5,000 metres time.

It was a storming performance by a woman of only 23, in which she led from gun to tape. She dictated the pace for nine laps, only two others being able to cling to her shadow, and she left the field groping with a burst three laps out.

In miserable contrast was the performance of Jiang, who last year set Asian and world junior records. For five laps she was among the group of four trailing Wang, but in the sixth her rhythm vanished, she fell back 70 metres and on the next back straight pulled off the track. Her head hanging, tears pouring down her cheeks, but with no discernible sign of pain, she ran along the outside lane in the wrong direction. Sympathisers who hurried to discover the cause were met with a dismissive gesture. "I'm not hurt," she said when asked what was wrong, adding with dismay: "You'd better ask my coach." She seems as ill at ease in the relationship as did Wang.

The revolutionary regime imposed by Ma — extreme discipline and diet — has produced incredible performances but, simultaneously, enormous stresses among many of his pupils. Wang was driven to breaking away by resentment that Ma did not release her prize-money, nor, initially, the Mercedes car she won when taking the 10,000 metres world title in 1993, the year she broke records almost every time she ran.

> 'Chinese sport is in urgent need of heroes'

Qu has had difficulties since the Asian Games of 1994, having won the 3,000 metres world title the previous year. Her form is uncertain. No one can know how soon, if at all, Ma can regain his influence and his runners' confidence and form. Wang is clearly happy with Mao Deixhen, her coach since the break with Ma. She set out to maintain a 71-second lap schedule in the 5,000, and did so.

For all its relative success, Chinese sport is in urgent need of cultural heroes, and in Wang it has one. A crowd of around 5,000 in the leafy Wu Tai San stadium, where trees ring the terraces inside the perimeter wall, have cheered her to the echo, even though the information network is still sluggish in the People's Republic. "Here's to Olympic success for Ma's army," proclaimed a banner in the crowd every day, the bearers seemingly unaware of the irony.

Wang has learnt how to react to her status. Asked what her ambitions are this year, she responded: "My ambitions are your ambitions."

Qu and Jiang have little time left to reorientate the talent that could triumph in Atlanta. It will be sad if Ma's extraordinary impact on the sport has come, and gone within three years.



Ma: sorely missed



Wang: inspired

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Good players pride themselves on guessing nine-card trump suits correctly. Roman Smolski was the declarer on this hand, from the EC Championships in April.

Dealer North — Game all — IMPs

	♠K1094 ♥4 ♦AKJ762 ♣76	
♠Q32 ♥1082 ♦954 ♣AQ92	N W E S	♠J ♥AJ963 ♦Q103 ♣K1085
	♠A8765 ♥KQ75 ♦8 ♣J43	

W	N	E	S
-	1♦	1♥	1♠
2♥	4♣	All Pass	

Contract: Four Spades by South. Lead: two of hearts

East won the first heart with the ace, and returned the five of clubs. Smolski played the jack, and West took the queen, continued with the ace and played a third round, ruffed in dummy, with East following with the ten.

How should declarer set about the trumps? This was Smolski's construction of the hand after the first four tricks. The hearts were probably five with East and three with West - East had overcalled, and West had supported. The clubs were almost certainly 4-4: notice that East played the ten on the third round, marking him with the king — West would have led clubs if he had started with AKQ. To complete the picture, Smolski played ace-king of diamonds and ruffed a diamond. When East followed three times that marked him with a 1-5-3-4 shape (remember the short-hand, shapes are always *spades hearts diamonds clubs* in that order). So Smolski laid down the ace of spades and, when the jack appeared from East, finessed the ten on the second round. Thus he picked up the trumps for no loser.

The contract at the other table was the same. The declarer laid down the ace of spades early, and when the jack fell also finessed against West. That was the correct odds play, but was not the certainty it was at Smolski's table.

☐ The Spring Foursomes, the major English teams congress, was won by Paul Hackett's team (Monachan, Forrester, Robson, Waterlow, Selway) who beat Townsend (Steel, Price, Czerniewski) in the final by 26 IMPs.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Fide preview

AS REPORTED yesterday, the Fide (World Chess Federation) world championship match between Anatoly Karpov, of Russia, and Gata Kamsky, of the United States, will commence on June 6 in Elista, the capital of the autonomous Russian republic of Kalmykia. The prize fund will be $2 million, a record for a single-venue championship and, $500,000 more than the prize fund for the Kasparov v Anand PCA world championship match held in New York last year.

Karpov starts the match as favourite to retain the Fide title which he won in a contest against the Dutch grandmaster, Jan Timman, in 1993. Karpov has a higher rating, 2770 to Kamsky's 2736, and enjoys a plus score of five wins to two in rated games over their careers so far. Karpov is also widely regarded as a considerably more stable player. Where Kamsky may score is in his fierce ambition to succeed. Just 22 when the match starts (Kamsky was born on June 2, 1974) victory in this match would make Kamsky the youngest ever Fide world champion. Over the next few days, I shall be previewing their chances with a selection of their previous games.

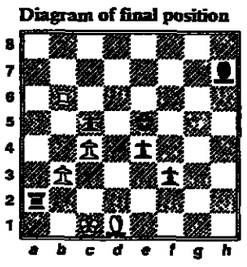
White: Gata Kamsky
Black: Anatoly Karpov
Dortmund 1993

Caro-Kann Defence

1	e4	c6
2	d4	d5
3	Nd2	dxe4
4	Nxe4	Nd7
5	Ng5	Ngf6
6	Bd3	e6
7	N1f3	Bd6
8	Qe2	h6
9	Ne4	Nxe4
10	Qxe4	Nf6
11	Qh4	Ke7
12	Ne5	Bxe5
13	dxe5	Qa5+
14	c3	Qxe5+
15	Be3	b6
16	0-0-0	g5
17	Qa4	c5
18	Rhe1	Bd7
19	Qa3	Rhd8
20	g3	Qc7
21	Bd4	Be8
22	Kb1	Rd5
23	f4	Rad8
24	Bc2	R5d6
25	Bxf6+	Kxf6
26	fxg5+	hxg5
27	Rxd8	Rxd6
28	c4	Ke7
29	Qe3	f6
30	h4	gxh4
31	gxh4	Qd7
32	Qh6	e5
33	h5	Qg4
34	Qh7+	Kd8
35	h6	Rd2
36	Qf5	Qxf5
37	Bxf5	Bd7
38	Bg6	Rh2
39	h7	Ke7
40	Bd3	Be6
41	Rg1	f5
42	Rg7+	Kf6
43	Rxa7	e4
44	Be2	f4
45	b3	f3
46	Bd1	Bf5
47	Kc1	Bxh7
48	Rb7	Ke5
49	Rxb6	Rxa2

White resigns

Diagram of final position



a b c d e f g h

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

Rusedski backs bid to switch Davis Cup tie

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE suggestion by David Lloyd, the captain, that Great Britain's Davis Cup tie with Ghana should be transferred to home soil is being taken up by the Lawn Tennis Association. Ian Peacock, the LTA chief executive, yesterday confirmed that the Ghanaians will be invited to play the Euro-Africa group two tie in Britain, starting on July 12.

Peacock refuted suggestions that the LTA is willing to approach the problem with an open cheque book. He said: "We won't buy the tie, contrary to some suggestions. We don't have a bottomless vault. Of course, we would look after them properly if they agree to come here, but it is in the lap of the gods.

"There is still a lot of prestige attached to having *British teams visiting a country* like Ghana, and playing a match where temperatures could be 110F in the shade would be greatly to their advantage." The LTA is prepared to woo the Ghanaians with Wimbledon hospitality and allow them the choice of court surface if they agree to transfer the tie from Accra.

Greg Rusedski, cornerstone of Britain's Davis Cup victory over Slovenia at Newcastle last weekend, welcomed the move to bring Ghana here. He said: "We are going to win 4-1 or 5-0 anyway so it would make much more sense to play the tie here. They could enjoy Wimbledon and make a bit of money while we would avoid the possibility of illness. The last thing you need is to pick up some sort of virus in such a hectic spell between Wimbledon and the Olympics."

Rusedski was speaking at the launch of the new LTA tennis magazine, *Ace*, at *Queen's Club, London, and, in* a specially-arranged assault on his 137mph service world record, he clocked an unofficial speed of 138mph.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

GROYNE
a. A sea fence
b. A syphilitic tumour
c. Hard work

PERNOCTATION
a. Multiples of eight
b. A vigil
c. Artificial hatching

ONEIRODEINIA
a. An Alpine plant
b. Pediment sculptures
c. A nightmare

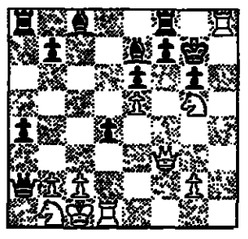
KIPPAGE
a. Commotion
b. A soporific
c. A haulage tax

Answers on page 46

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Siegfried — Hunnefeld, Germany 1941. White has a tremendous attack but is hampered by the threat against his knight on g5. How did he deal with this while advancing his own *cause as swiftly as possible?*



Solution on page 46

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

NW AYER LIMITED
Company Number: 1852097
ON NOVEMBERS
VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
On 3 May 1996 the above named company was placed in members' voluntary liquidation and Anthony Victor Lomax of Price Waterhouse, was appointed liquidator by the shareholders.
The liquidator gives notice under the provisions of Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the company must send details, in writing, of any claim against the company to the liquidator, at No 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL by 17 June 1996 which is the last day for proving claims.
The liquidator also gives notice that he will then make a final distribution to creditors and that a creditor who does not make a claim by the date mentioned will not be included in the distribution.
The company is able to pay all its known creditors in full.
Date 3 May 1996.
AV Lomax, Liquidator.

Notice of Appointment of Administrative Receiver
International Aero Services Limited
Registered Number: 02356834.
Nature of Business: Packaging services. Trade classification: 11.
Date of appointment of administrative receivership: 25 April 1996.
Name of person appointing the administrative receiver(s): Barclays Bank plc, R Hocking and S E Dayman, Joint Administrative Receivers. Office holder nos: 2522 and 6098. Address: BDO Stoy Hayward, 8 Baker Street, London, W1M 1DA.

EXPRESS LABEL COMPANY LIMITED
THE INSOLVENCY 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act, 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named Company will be held at the offices of Poppleton and Appleby, 32 High Street, Manchester, M4 1QD on Wednesday 15 May 1996 at 12.00 noon, for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act.
Pursuant to Section 98, Subsection (2) (a) of the Act, Mr P Lomax of Poppleton and Appleby, 32 High Street, Manchester, M4 1QD is appointed to act as the Qualified Insolvency Practitioner who will furnish creditors with such information as they may reasonably require.
DATED 3RD OF MAY 1996
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD.
MR R ROGERS, DIRECTOR.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVER
Leyland DAF Finance Plc
Registered number: 01260313.
Trading name(s): none. Nature of business: commercial vehicle leasing. Trade classification: none. Date of appointment of administrative receiver(s): 2 May 1996. Name of person appointing the administrative receiver(s): International Nederlanden Bank NV. Names of administrative receivers: Alan John Barrett and Michael David Gerdis. Office holder Nos. (s): 1090 and 3560. Addresses: No.1 London Bridge, London, SE1 9QL.

POSSIBLE BENEFICIARIES
JOHANNA ROBBI (Daughter of Johanna Hall and Harry Rosal) or any person knowing her whereabouts or claiming to be related to the said JOHANNA ROBBI are requested to provide full details of their claim to the Public Trustee of Queensland, GPO Box 1449, Brisbane, 4001. (Quoting Reference: E2856-18420920).
Notice is given that on or after 30 May 1996 the Public Trustee intends, pursuant to section 132 of the Public Trustee Act 1978, to proceed to distribute the assets in the estate of JOHANNA HALL late of Riverview Nursing Home, Ipswich, Brisbane in the State of Queensland having regard only to the persons whose claims have then been established to his satisfaction or who then appear to him to have the best claim in law.
K J MARTIN, Public Trustee.

POSSIBLE BENEFICIARIES
JAMES WILLIAM HALL (Son of Johanna Hall and Albert Richard Hall) or any person knowing his whereabouts or claiming to be related to the said JAMES WILLIAM HALL are requested to provide full details of their claim to the Public Trustee of Queensland, GPO Box 1449, Brisbane, 4001. (Quoting Reference: E2866-18420920).
Notice is given that on or after 30 May 1996 the Public Trustee intends, pursuant to section 132 of the Public Trustee Act 1978, to proceed to distribute the assets in the estate of JOHANNA HALL late of Riverview Nursing Home, Ipswich, Brisbane in the State of Queensland having regard only to the persons whose claims have then been established to his satisfaction or who then appear to him to have the best claim in law.
K J MARTIN, Public Trustee.

WORLD LEAGUE PROPERTIES (UK) LIMITED
(In Members' Voluntary Liquidation)
In accordance with Rule 4.106, I, Lee Antony Manning of Bachler Phillips, 84 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9DF, give notice that on 26 April 1996 I was appointed Liquidator by resolutions of members.
Notice is hereby given that the creditors of the above named company, which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before the 14 June 1996 to send in their full christian and surnames, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of the debts or claims and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned Lee Antony Manning of 84 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9DF, the Liquidator of the said company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are, personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution.
Note: This notice is purely formal. All creditors have been or will be paid in full.
Dated: 3 May 1996.
Lee Antony Manning, Liquidator.

PUBLIC NOTICES

MANCHESTER UNITY
LIFE INSURANCE
COLLECTING SOCIETY
The Annual General Meeting of this Society will be held in The Regency Room, Spa Complex, Scarborough, on Monday 10 June 1996 at 1.00 pm.
AGENDA
Notice convening the Meeting, Minutes of Annual General Meeting 1995, Report of Committee of Management, Balance Sheet and Auditor's Report 1995, Appointment of Auditors, Appointment of Trustees, Re-appointment of Arbitrators, Any other business of which notice has been given.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVER
WESTERN SYSTEMS (EUROPE) LIMITED
Registered Number: 1907098.
Trading Name: Western Systems (Europe) Limited. Nature of Business: Manufacture and Distribution of Pcs. Trade classification: 11. Date of appointment of administrative receiver: 02 May 1996. Name of person appointing administrative receivers: National Westminster Bank PLC. Name of administrative receivers: Peter Norman Sprot and Stephen Robert Edward Hancock. Office Holders Numbers: 6278 and 6472. Address: Price Waterhouse, Thames Court, 1 Victoria Street, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 1HB.

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES
TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE
0171-782 7344 OR FAX: 0171-782 7827
Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

هكذا من الأصل

THE TIMES THURSDAY MA
Australia embrace cross-cod culture
Greg Campbell
HURRY: YOUR CHANCE TO
Win ticke Middlese
Rugby fans have
Rau win a pair of
two end-of-season
games at Twickenham
the England team
Scrumpy Jack cider
readers for
Tenner readers
tickets. The first
for the match on Saturday
May 11, when
Leicester, Wasps, Bristol
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Sevens tournament
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هكذا من الأصل

Australians embrace cross-code culture

Greg Campbell on the spectators who are changing their rugby allegiance

WHILE professional rugby union has stuttered into life amid disagreement and disenchantment in the British Isles, the game has been making rapid advances in Australia, once an almost exclusive province of rugby league. The public, it seems, cannot get enough of the Super 12 competition, a provincial event drawing teams from Australia, South Africa and New Zealand.

The Super 12 was launched at Sydney Football Stadium on March 1, when 26,102 spectators filed into the ground amid fireworks, singing and dancing for the game between New South Wales and Transvaal teams loaded with international players. After a victory for the home team, the supporters left happy and the verdict was that they would be back.

Bath have pulled out of the Middlesex Sevens at Twickenham on Saturday. Phil de Glanville, the captain, said: "We can't get a team together. Most of the squad are affected by examinations, holidays, injuries or unavailability. It's a game too far."

The competition has its roots in the Super Six championship, a provincial championship between New Zealand's top four provinces, New South Wales and Queensland, which came into being in 1987.

There was only modest financial backing and the concept of international provincial rugby failed to attract Australian sports enthusiasts. Now, however, after three World Cups, which have commanded massive world-wide television audiences, combined with the introduction of open professionalism, rugby union's appeal has been transformed. The slick, mass-market product that has emerged this season as Super 12 is, in reality, a re-packaged, up-market version of Super 10, which developed from the Super Six foundations.

The Super 12 has not been a one-night wonder. New South Wales have attracted crowds of 20,687 (v ACT), 30,147 (v Natal) and 24,616 (v Otago). Nor has the growth been limited to New South Wales. Queensland were initially watched by modest crowds of 9,500, 12,000, 12,480 and 15,663, but the Ballymore ground in Brisbane was stretched to its limits when 22,296 and 25,692 supporters watched the matches against New South Wales and Auckland respectively. The crowd support has not been restricted to the two main rugby centres. ACT's introduction to the competition has drawn crowds of 15,042 and 17,019 for games against Queensland and Auckland.

So why has the Super 12 been a hit in Australia? Unquestionably, the media exposure of the 1991 and 1995 World Cups, together with the success of the national team, has raised the profile of rugby union. Its success has also coincided with the disenchantment of rugby league followers after the failure to get the Australian Super League off the ground. Many are changing their allegiance from rugby league to rugby union.

Research has shown that most rugby league supporters like to see top quality international rugby union once or twice a year. Super 12 has managed to attract the same market more often, albeit to provincial games.

For the players, the Super 12 has been an energy-sapping, mind-numbing affair. Each provincial team plays 11 championship games, but, in the professional era, player complaints are given little consideration. It is a case of the players having to sing for their supper.

The spectators have been entertained by open, free-flowing rugby, and many high-scoring games. The recent Queensland v Auckland and New South Wales v Auckland games produced nearly 200 points. However, some of the rugby has been intense but sloppy, perhaps a result of the rigorous playing and travel schedule, plus the fact that the tournament is played at the beginning of the season.

As the reviews have been good, the championship's future appears assured, despite the wrangling over broadcasting rights that no sport seems to be without. It is one of the few links with rugby union in the northern hemisphere, where the uncertainty of the new era seems more pronounced than ever set against Super 12's growing success.

Lewis emerges bubbling from the melting-pot

Srikumar Sen from New York on the impact of the Kronk gym spirit on the Briton's development



Lewis sharpens up his image, training in the Kronk gym in front of a mirror as he prepares for his bout. Photograph: Wally Santana

The defeat by Oliver McCall in 1994 may be the best thing that has happened to Lennox Lewis. It exposed his deficiencies and forced him to change his trainer. He has been with Emanuel Steward, his new trainer, for a year and the director of the famous Kronk gym in Detroit reports that the complete amateur who came to him has, at last, become the complete professional, capable of dealing even with Mike Tyson.

Steward's evaluation may be put to the test at Madison Square Garden here tomorrow when he meets Ray Mercer who, like Lewis, won a gold medal in the Seoul Olympic Games.

"I always wanted to sign Lennox since the Olympics," Steward said. "It was an enormous disappointment when he decided to live in England. It used to break my heart watching his fights because, even though he won the world title, I knew his resources were not being tapped.

"I think he is twice the fighter now. He always had a right hand but now he has become a complete fighter. He feels he is superior to every other heavyweight."

Even though Lewis's main faults were a lack of balance and a total reliance on the big right hand, Steward identified a flaw that went deeper than technical problems. Lewis, by surrounding himself with friends and admirers, had become remote from the daily grind of the gym and had turned into a "softie".

Steward's cure was to introduce him to the fiercely competitive atmosphere of the Kronk. "Lennox was a conservative type who lived with a tight bunch of people and trained in quiet places," Steward said. "So I told him, 'you don't want to be around those quiet places. You need to be in a wild and unorganised type of fight atmosphere. All that chess-playing stuff is no good, you need jungle warfare; crazy, arrogant people around you.'"

In three months Lewis has immersed himself in the Kronk atmosphere and emerged as a typical boxer from that forbidding melting-pot. "He found it strange at first," Steward said. "But he soon started to enjoy it. If you can survive in the Kronk, you can survive anywhere. Now I can see the confidence that had gone after the defeat by McCall coming back and he is much more at home. Lennox has learnt the mentality of Kronk people. He wanted to be like the others. I knew then that he had completed the transition from amateur to professional. Before, we had one right hand, now we have an array of weapons with which he can handle most heavyweights."

For the past six weeks Lewis has been training in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania and observers who saw him there say he had never looked better in training.

Steward said that, instead of bringing in sparring partners, he had brought in proper fighters, who turned every training session into a real contest. "I once saw Riddick Bowe having a life-and-death struggle in the gym with one man, so I brought him in. Lennox had no problems whipping him."

Steward clearly makes some extravagant claims for Lewis but, even so, a feeling of expectation remains. Mercer has a good chin and can punch. He is a perfect opponent to show whether Lewis has, in fact, become a man capable of handling the best heavyweights in the world.

Cope misses final Atlanta squad

BY ALIX RAMSAY

IT HAS been six months since Great Britain's women hockey players won their place at the Olympic Games and, for the players, it has been a fraught time: a period of working, waiting and hoping for a place in the final squad. Of the 19 who went to Atlanta for the warm-up series against the United States and Spain, each knew that three would not be returning in the summer.

Yesterday, Sue Slocombe, the coach, made her final selection, dropping Lucy Cope, Sue McDonald and Diane Renilson to reduce the squad to 16. For Cope, the decision is particularly hard to take. She missed out on selection for the World Cup two years ago because of injury and, although an international for England, has yet to play in a leading tournament.

Her team-mates at club level have fared better. Kathy Johnson wins back her place in defence, having missed the early part of the Olympic build-up trying to regain her fitness after having a baby. Jo Mould, her partner at the back, has also made her presence felt, winning her trip to the Olympics from nowhere. She has yet to be selected for England, let alone Britain.

The squad has a few wise old heads in its midst, with Karen Brown, Jill Atkins and Jane Sixsmith all going for their third Games. With temperatures and humidity in Atlanta likely to cause problems, an agile mind and the ability to adapt are as important as strong legs.

The Scottish contingent has been reduced to three with the loss of McDonald. However, Rhona Simpson, from Edinburgh Ladies, has secured her place in the attack.

GREAT BRITAIN SQUAD: H Rose (Sutton Coldfield), J Thompson (Ipswich), J Atkins (Bradford), K Brown (Slough), S Fraser (Grove), K Johnson (Leicester), J Mould (Leicester), C Cook (Hightown), M Davies (Sutton Coldfield), T Miller (Clifton), P Robertson (Grove), A Bennett (Slough), T Cullen (Hightown), M Nicholls (Slough), R Simpson (Edinburgh Ladies), J Sixsmith (Sutton Coldfield).

Haining nets another hat-trick

BY MIKE ROSEWELL, ROWING CORRESPONDENT

PETER HAINING is becoming a hat-trick expert. The triple world lightweight sculls champion completed a hat-trick of Wingfield Sculls titles from Putney to Mortlake yesterday, followed home by the 1993 champion, Wade Hall-Craggs, and the 1991 and 1992 champion, Guy Pooley.

Before the start, the scullers, including the "underdog", Steve Fowler, were aware that the strong northeast wind, whipping up white horses from Fulham to Hammersmith Bridge, would place a premium on watermanship to that point, but they could not have envisaged the man-made problems which would ensue.

Hall-Craggs and Haining led from the start and, in the appalling conditions, reached the Mile Post level in 4min 57sec. Haining then began a push and broke Hall-Craggs from Harrods to Hammersmith Bridge (9min 09sec), reached with the champion four lengths up.

The race seemed over as the water flattened. Haining was clear and going away, Pooley many lengths behind Hall-Craggs, and Fowler had disappeared. Pooley, though, began to move steadily up on Hall-Craggs and Haining suddenly found himself dogged by an erratic-steering sightseeing boat which pulled in front of him from Corney Reach Pier. He weaved around it. Pooley, enjoying the calmer water, was almost overlapping for second place at the Bandstand until they hit two more big launch washes before the finish, reached, remarkably, in 22min 03sec by Haining.

It was a day for hard men. Haining, aiming for heavyweight selection for the Olympics, said: "I'd like to see Cop [the Slovenian world heavyweight champion] in those conditions. He wouldn't stand a chance."

RESULT: 1, P Haining (Auriol Kensington), 22min 03sec; 2, W Hall-Craggs (Tideway Scullers) 22 16; 3, G Pooley (Leander) 22 22.



Win tickets for the Middlesex Sevens

Rugby fans have the chance to win a pair of tickets to two end-of-season show case games at Twickenham. One of the England team sponsors, Scrumpy Jack cider, is giving Times readers four pairs of tickets. The first two pairs are for the match on Saturday, May 11, when you can see Leicester, Wasps, Bristol and Sale contest one of the most prestigious Sevens tournaments. The two winners will also receive two cases of premium draught cider each to help them celebrate. The other two pairs of tickets are for the league-union clash on May 25 between union champions, Bath and league champions, Wigan. The two winners will get one case of Scrumpy Jack. And there are also three runners-up prizes consisting of a signed by members of the rugby shirt, England team, plus a case of cider.

SCRUMPY JACK
OFFICIAL SPONSOR
ENGLAND RUGBY TEAM

HOW TO ENTER

Simply phone your answer to this question to our competition hotline number, below:

Which team won last year's Middlesex Sevens?

Winners will be chosen at random from all correct entries received, normal Times Newspapers competition rules apply

CALL 0891 40 50 07 BEFORE MIDNIGHT TONIGHT

Calls cost 39p cheap rate and 49p at all other times

SPORTS LETTERS

Rugby union must take close look at itself

From Mr Mark Benson

Sir, Over the past weeks we have seen the showpiece club cup finals of both rugby union and rugby league in England. Both games were very tight and played with great passion, but in terms of which was the better spectacle there was no comparison.

The Rugby Football Union and the clubs must realise that their energies would be far better spent looking at the quality of their product rather than in debating who takes what share of potential television revenues and how much to pay a player to lure him away from a first division club.

If rugby union is to turn professional then it will need to "get real" at the same time. The rugby league final will be remembered for everything that is unique in great sport; but what will the union final be remembered for?

Today's sports followers have a better choice than ever of events to watch and follow. They are very discerning and they will not tolerate too much more disillusionment with the once great game of rugby union.

Yours sincerely,
MARK BENSON,
42 Formosa Street, W9.

From Mr Robin Fairlie

Sir, I understand the RFU's claim for a disproportionate share of the home countries' income from television is based on the assertion that there are far more viewers of the five nations' championships in England than in the other home countries.

I can't suppose that my wife (Irish) and myself (Scottish) are the only English-resident viewers who are not England supporters. Not only the Welsh, Irish and Scottish (and perhaps even French) exiles in England, but I suspect, many England supporters too, are fed up with the inevitability, season after season, of having to watch live broadcasts of deadly dull matches featuring England, while seeing only edited highlights of much more skilful and entertaining games.

That countries which understand how to play rugby that spectators want to watch should receive less financial support than a country that seems either not to know or not to care is a sick joke.

The argument that English rugby needs more money because it has more clubs and players to support is the reverse of the truth. Scottish and Irish rugby suffer desperately from the low profile of the game in those countries: the health of the game there (and therefore of the championship) depends on nurturing the game in those areas where it is weakest.

The arrogance and greed of the RFU (evidenced also in its attitude to its own clubs) is beyond belief; a few years of a five nations' championships in which England is replaced by Italy until the ruling body at Twickenham comes to its senses would be a welcome development for the health of the game in the northern hemisphere.

Yours faithfully
ROBIN FAIRLIE,
15 Vincent Terrace, NL

East-West split to help cricket

From Mr Martin K. Miller

Sir, The problem with English cricket seems to stem from the fact that we play too many matches compared to our Test opposition.

There is a possible solution based on a proven method used in American sport and, indeed, in the Minor Counties cricket championship. Instead of one division of 18 teams in the county championship there should be two divisions of nine teams, still playing each other once, with both divisions being of the same standing and a play-off at the end of the season to produce overall champions.

One way of splitting the teams would be by an East-West split, as follows:
WESTERN DIVISION: Derbyshire, Glamorgan, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Lancashire, Somerset, Surrey, Warwickshire, Worcestershire.
EASTERN DIVISION: Durham, Essex, Kent, Leicestershire, Middlesex, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, Sussex, Yorkshire.

This split ensures that northern, Midlands and southern counties are involved in each division.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN K. MILLER,
12 Bradford Road,
Drighlington, Yorkshire.

Better alternative

From Mr S. Dunkey

Sir, Most people agree that football's penalty shoot-out is unsatisfactory. There is a viable alternative.

If teams are level after 90 minutes, each takes five mandatory penalty kicks in the usual way. Any scores from these are added to any goals from normal time, so producing a "running aggregate".

A further mandatory 30 minutes' extra time is played, plus stoppages in the usual way. Any goals scored during extra time are added to the running aggregate.

At the conclusion of extra time, the team with the higher overall score wins the match. If the overall scores finish level after extra time, goals scored in extra time count double, or, should both teams score during extra time, the first goal scored counts double.

In the (unlikely) event that both are level and inseparable even with the above rules invoked, sudden-death penalty kicks would have to finish the match and produce a result.

Yours sincerely,
S. DUNKEY,
14 Glamis Drive,
Stone, Staffordshire.

Cold draught

From Mr Jolyon Armstrong

Sir, The manhandling of the referee, Steve Lander, by Neil Back, of Leicester, at the end of the Pilkington Cup final (report, May 6) must surely send the cold draught of reason to all who are responsible and accountable for rugby union.

In December the Scottish referee, Colin Muir, received a police escort off the pitch in response to the behaviour of visiting team officials and players during the Swansea v Castres match in the Heineken European Cup.

Next season European competition is set to expand. Competition will be fierce, crowds will be partisan and passionate, the game of rugby, its players and officials will be pressured and exposed on television throughout Europe.

If officials, let alone players, are allowed to influence, abuse or attack referees without penalty then there will be no rugby union, no crowds, no media, no sponsors, just Rollerball — and that would be criminal.

Yours faithfully,
JOLYON ARMSTRONG,
Nutwood House,
Leys Gardens,
Newbury, Berkshire.

Exemplary crowd

From the Headmaster of Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Blackburn

Sir, Your correspondent does Queen Elizabeth's a disservice when he reports that the first XI's "exuberant followers provided a spot of crowd trouble" at the Boodle and Dunthorne Independent Schools Football Cup final (May 1).

Those spectators who were standing had been told they may do so by stewards. They were not standing on their seats, as the loudspeaker announcement suggested. They complied immediately with the request to be seated and their behaviour throughout was both enthusiastic and exemplary.

This was a matter for specific commendation on the night by the Chester City Football Club stewards and authorities, as well as by the officials of the Independent Schools Football Association.

Yours faithfully,
D. S. HEMPSALL,
Headmaster,
Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School,
West Park Road,
Blackburn,
Lancashire.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They must include a daytime telephone number.

Champions reveal charitable side

Ferguson hoping to turn on style for a grand finale

BY PETER BALL

MANCHESTER United's past two visits to the FA Cup Final were tarnished in some eyes by the team's record of indiscipline. This year, their fresh-faced young team is easier to love, and yesterday they showed their admirable side when Alex Ferguson, the manager, revealed that they are donating £20,000 from their players' pool to the Dunblane Appeal. "They won't want to tell you about that," Ferguson said yesterday, "but I'm telling you anyway because I think they are a great bunch, and it is a terrific gesture by them."

A year ago, United's loss of the FA Carling Premiership title on the last day of the season was reflected in a lifeless display in the Cup Final a week later. This year, Ferguson hopes the euphoria of the title triumph last Sunday will be reflected in an exciting display against Liverpool on Saturday.

"I can't think of a better way of going into it than to win the title on the last game of the season," Ferguson said. "It was different two years ago, because they'd won it two or three weeks before. There's obviously a lot of delighted players at the moment, and hopefully that takes them bouncing into the final. I think the disappointment accounted for last year's flatness, so I hope we see a real, bouncy performance from them on Saturday."

Reassuringly, Ferguson is convinced that this final will be a fitting climax to a season full of fine football from the leading Premiership clubs. He is, however, under no illusions about the task ahead, with Liverpool ready to prove formidable opposition.

"I think it will be a brilliant game, with two young teams full of good players," he said. "We know Liverpool will try to beat us, which not every team does, and we will certainly be trying to win, so that should make for a good, open game.

"Liverpool were the dominant force when I came to Manchester, and beating them was the challenge I faced when they had some great teams. Now, I think Roy Evans [the Liverpool manager] has turned it round again, and they are an excellent football team. Some of the individuals he has got now, like Fowler, McManaman, Collymore, Barnes and David James, would get in any of the great Liverpool teams. They've got some outstanding individuals.

"And they have great motivation now, because they know that everyone is expecting us to do the double. So it will be a very difficult game. They murdered us on their own ground in December, and in the game at Old Trafford, for an hour, they gave us a torrid time. These are nice reminders that we have a hard job on our hands on Saturday."

Ferguson's first task, however, will be to pick his team. Unlike Evans, who is expected to name his team today, he is in no hurry to confront the problem, particularly the choice between Steve Bruce, the club captain and his trusted warhorse, and David May, one of his more contentious buys, who scored the first goal against Middlesbrough on Sunday and whose form over the past two months has been outstanding.

Ferguson confessed that sentiment would come into the equation, but he then bit his tongue before adding more. The precedent set by his decision to leave out Bryan Robson two years ago, however, and May's selection on Sunday, when Bruce was fit, suggest that sentiment will come into the equation, but not into the final decision.

The choice between Paul Scholes and Andy Cole may also exercise the manager before he names his team, but it seems certain that Lee Sharpe will not be in the starting line-up, and may not even be on the substitutes' bench. Sharpe was bitterly disappointed not to be in the 14 on duty at Middlesbrough last Sunday.

"The manager called me in on Monday and told me what was what," Sharpe said. "I don't know about the Cup Final, but it's going to be difficult for me to change the team. If I am disappointed on Saturday, it won't be as bad as it was last Sunday. I suppose I've got to hope for a place on the bench. My fingers are crossed."



Eric Cantona, Manchester United's France international, practises some of the ball skills that supporters hope will illuminate the FA Cup Final against Liverpool at Wembley

Sell-outs are expected at Newcastle despite price rise

NEWCASTLE United supporters will have to pay more to watch FA Carling Premiership football next season after the club yesterday announced a 15 per cent increase in season-ticket prices. Newcastle will still, however, post sell-out notices when more than 31,000 season-ticket renewal notices go out in the next few days.

A club spokesman said: "Season-ticket costs have not altered in the previous two seasons but, in general, prices are increased by approximately 15 per cent across the board. All season-ticket seats in the stadium are allocated and it looks very much the same situation as last season, when there were no season tickets left for 12,000 other fans on the waiting list."

Charlton Athletic fans may seek an injunction to prevent the second leg of the first division play-off semi-final against Crystal Palace going ahead. Charlton's official supporters' club claims that Palace's ticket arrangements for the match on Wednesday are in breach of the competition rules because Charlton have been allocated only 2,883 seats instead of the 6,700 which would constitute the required 25 per cent of the capacity at Selhurst Park.

Bruce Grobbelaar, the Southampton goalkeeper, has been dropped from the Zimbabwe squad to give younger players a chance, the newly-appointed coach, Marc Duvillard, said yesterday. Duvillard said that Grobbelaar, 38, would not play in Zimbabwe's first World Cup qualifying match against Madagascar next month or feature in any other games under his control.

IN BRIEF

Relieved Becker scrapes through

BORIS BECKER came perilously close to defeat by Emilio Alvarez, 23, a qualifier from Spain, before scraping through to the third round of the Panasonic German Open, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 in Hamburg yesterday (Alix Ramsay writes).

After 12 years on the circuit and with six grand-slam titles to his name, Becker is still waiting for his first clay-court title. "On a clay court you cannot put someone away with my sort of game unless it is a perfect day with perfect conditions," he said.

At 3-3 in the third set, Alvarez was keeping pace with Becker, the No 1 seed. Only a nervous service game gave Becker the chance to break for 5-3 and wrap up the match. Goran Ivanisevic, the No 2 seed, was not so lucky, easily beaten by Carl-Uwe Steeb, 6-3, 6-4.

Gibson goes

Rugby league: Rochdale Hornets yesterday dismissed Steve Gibson, their Australian player-coach, and Iain MacCorquodale, his assistant. Rochdale have lost five of their opening six matches. Paddy Kirwan, the reserve team coach, is in temporary charge. ☐ Castleford have signed David Chapman, 22, an Australian centre, from Hunter Mariners.

BBC on course

Golf: The Open Championship will stay on terrestrial television until the next century after the Royal and Ancient Golf Club announced yesterday that they had struck a deal with the BBC. The new contract to cover the world's most famous golf tournament will remain with the BBC up to and including 2001.

Cheshire smiles

Shooting: Colin Cheshire, in his role of chairman of the Army Target Rifle Club, won the Zimbabwe President's Prize in Harare. Cheshire, the chief executive of the National Rifle Association, finished with a final aggregate of 392.45.

Wild in Cardiff

Tennis: Clare Wood, the British No 1, and Sam Smith, of Essex, have received wild cards for next week's Rover Championships at Cardiff, the first major tennis tournament to be staged in Wales for more than 20 years.

Calzaghe rival

Boxing: Tim Dendy, from Tennessee, will be the next opponent for Joe Calzaghe, the British super-middleweight champion, in a ten-round non-title contest at the Star Leisure Centre in Cardiff next Wednesday.

Rookie pursues brighter horizons

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

THE other week a reporter asked Nancy Lopez if Karrie Webb was the best rookie she had ever seen. "No," replied Lopez, to her own surprise. "I think I was." The reporter then proceeded to tell Lopez, who won nine tournaments, five of them in a row, in 1978, her first full season on the Ladies' Professional Golf Association (LPGA) tour, that in her day, the competition was not what it is now, that she won all those titles because there was not much to beat.

"It worried me that I'd answered him the way I had," Lopez, now 39 and mother of three daughters, said yesterday, on the eve of the McDonald's LPGA Championship at the DuPont Country Club in Delaware. "I've never wanted to be immodest but he set me off. He kinda hurt my feelings and I was a little offended. I knew how hard I'd worked, how much I practised. I did work for it and there were great players like JoAnne Carner, Beth Daniel, Betsy King, Judy Rankin, Donna Caponi and Jane Blalock."

Webb, the young Australian whose outstanding early-season form has caused the comparisons, agreed with Lopez. "Nancy was the best rookie by far, ever. I don't think anyone will outdo what she's done."

Webb, 21, won $180,000 (about £112,000) for her victory in the Sprint Titleholders Championship, in Florida last week, to take her total so far to $462,388 and said, "It's quite weird for me to have this much money in the bank. I don't know what to do with it." She will not be short of advice and she and Todd Haller, her fiancé and caddie, are already able to buy their new house in Orlando outright.

Webb, the Weetabix Women's British Open champion, started her first US season wanting to be rookie of the year and finish in the top 40 on the money-list, but she has had to revise her plans. "My expectations have been blown out of the water," she said. "I have to look at Player of the Year now, but I really can't set a goal because I've already gone far beyond what I wanted to do."

Webb finished with a round of 66 last Sunday, to beat Kelly Robbins, the defending champion this week, by a shot. Robbins, weary after being on the road since January, has never had a better start to a season and is top of the Solheim Cup standings. The golf course suits her, a long hitter, too.

It is playing much longer than its 6,386 yards, sodden after 20 inches of rain since March, and that, of course, does not disturb Laura Davies, who has won here twice and was pipped by Robbins last year. England's finest won in Japan two weeks ago, was fourth last week and looked fresh and relaxed after a brief visit to Atlantic City. "Gambling? What gambling? You know me, I don't bet," she said. She did reveal that she was serving better than ever before — she won 6-0, 6-2, 6-2 on Tuesday (tennis is typical of major championship warm-up Davies-style) — and that her golf was not bad either.



Webb: cashing in

Montgomerie aiming high

FROM MEL WEBB IN MADRID

THE GOLFER who won the Spanish Open two years ago has returned to Club de Campo and would surprise nobody — least of all, one suspects, himself — if he were to win the tournament again this week. The man who won it last year is also here, and would surprise nearly everybody — most of all, one suspects, himself — if he were to repeat the feat.

The player on the upbeat is Colin Montgomerie, and he was full of positive thoughts yesterday as he prepared for the event, which starts here today. He presented a stark contrast to Severiano Ballesteros, the defending champion, who continues to ride a long and sorry slump.

The difference in their demeanour gave the clue to the way they are approaching their golf. Montgomerie has had a first and a second among four top-ten finishes this season, and is critical of only one area of his game; the putting. "I've not been holing out quite as well as I should," he said.

"If I had ten ten-foot putts, I would normally expect to hole a good half of them. Right now I wouldn't expect to make more than two or three." The words of a man lacking in confidence? Not when the next sentence is: "Sure, I can get top-ten finishes with that sort of putting, but I like to win." Lucky man that he can afford to regard a top-ten finish as unacceptable. There is, be assured, nothing much wrong with his morale.

Ballesteros likes winning too, and has done so more than 70 times in the past two decades, but what he would give to be getting ten-foot birdie chances at the moment, never mind taking them, can only be imagined. Ending the tournament in the top ten would be cause for wild celebration; winning has to be regarded as a notion that goes beyond fiction.

He was in muted form as he anticipated the approaching four days. He injured his left wrist a few days before he missed the cut in the Turespaña Masters two weeks ago, and even though mysterious clicks in the joint seem to have disappeared, he is still nursing the injury. He will hardly be able to practise, and says he must not go into the rough too often. If recent form is an indicator, that is something that cannot be guaranteed.

"My game is still not right," he said. "I need to capture my rhythm again, and I need to get my concentration back. If I keep playing, perhaps it will come back soon." There was not a smile, not even a glimmer; words spoken, surely, more in hope than expectation.

FOR THE RECORD

BASEBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Florida 3 New York 2; Cincinnati 3 Los Angeles 2 (12 innings); Montreal 8 Chicago 3, Houston 7 Philadelphia 5; Atlanta 6 Colorado 5 (10 innings); San Francisco 4 St Louis 2. Postponed: Pittsburgh v San Diego.

East division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Montreal	22	11	.667	—
Atlanta	20	13	.606	2
Philadelphia	16	15	.516	5
New York	13	18	.419	8
Florida	13	21	.382	9½

Central division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	17	16	.515	—
Chicago	16	17	.485	1
Pittsburgh	15	16	.484	1
St Louis	14	18	.438	2½
Cincinnati	13	17	.433	2½

West division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Diego	19	12	.613	—
Colorado	15	16	.484	4
San Francisco	15	16	.484	4
Los Angeles	16	18	.471	4½

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Oakland 8 Cleveland 4; New York 12 Detroit 5; Chicago 3 Baltimore 2; Boston 4 Milwaukee 2; Texas 5 Toronto 1; Kansas City 5 California 3; Minnesota 2 Seattle 0

East division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	19	11	.633	—
Baltimore	16	15	.516	3½
Toronto	14	17	.452	5½
Boston	11	16	.355	6½
Detroit	10	24	.294	11

Central division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	20	11	.645	—
Chicago	17	14	.548	3
Minnesota	15	16	.484	5
Milwaukee	13	17	.433	6½
Kansas City	13	20	.394	8

West division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	21	11	.656	—
California	18	14	.563	3
Seattle	16	15	.545	3½
Oakland	16	16	.500	5

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Play-offs: Semi-finals: Western Conference: Utah 95 San Antonio 75 (Utah lead best-of-seven series 1-0). Eastern Conference: Chicago 91 New York 80 (Chicago lead 2-0).

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CRICKET

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP: Final day of three: The Oval: Surrey 292 (N Shahid 63, G J Kenna 81; J P Searle 4-57) and 159-8 dec (D M Cox 3-39); Durham 135 (J E Benjamin 5-28) and 287-8 (M J Robinson 87no, D G C Ligertwood 72no; R W Nowell 4-81). Durham beat Surrey by four wickets. North Perrott: Somerset 178 and 293 (M Trescothick 95, H Morgan 97, S Trego 61; A R Roberts 7-85); Northamptonshire 479-3 dec (D Roberts 172, A J Swann 174, J A North 63). Northamptonshire won by an innings and eight runs. Eastbourne: Essex 247 and 304-8 (A R Butcher 82, B J Hyam 57). Sussex 307-4 dec Match drawn. Invitation match: Grill and Colors: MCC Young Cricketers 228 (S McDonald 5-73) and 148 (H Barton 50, S McDonald 5-68); Warwickshire 189 (M Burns 77, H Barton 4-65) and 193-6 (M Burns 81 not out). Warwickshire won by four wickets. Second day of three: Old Trafford: Lancashire 351-8 dec (D J Shadford 101 no) and 40-1; Worcestershire 276-8 dec (M Dwan 84 no, D B D'Oliveira 62, M J Church 52). Abbotsholme School: Yorkshire 324-7 dec (B Parker 83, N Russell 64no, C A Chapman 53) and 53-1, Derbyshire 302-4 dec (M J Vandrau 110, J D Cokayne 62, B Spendlove 50no). First day of three: Bristol: Hampshire 355 (L J Botham 51, D A Kenway 52, K P Shearaz 6-80), Gloucestershire 18-0

SCHOOL MATCHES: Ardingley 324-5 O Ardinsans 174; Cheltenham 230-8 (Hughes 107) *Radley 147-8; Kings Bruton 276-2 dec *Bryanston 76; MCC 249-7 dec *Forest 202-9; St George's Weybridge 272-8 dec Emmett 273-7 (C Foulds 122 not out); Shrewsbury 235-6 dec (B Chesters 106) Manchester GS 163-8

* denotes home side

CYCLING

TOUR DUPONT: Seventh stage (176.2km, from Wytheville to Bristol, Virginia): 1, F Colonna (It, Mapei-GB) 4hr 30min 34sec; 2, S Bauer (Can, Saturn); 3, T Hamilton (US, US Postal Service) all same time; 4, L van Bon (Holl, Rabobank) at 1sec; 5, L Madouas (Fr, Mapei-GB) 4; 6, A Baffi (It, Mapei-GB) 1:47. Overall positions: 1, L Armstrong (US, Motorola) 27:50:54; 2, P Herve (Fr, Festina) 2:53; 3, T Rominger (Switz, Mapei-GB) 3:59; 4, A Merckx (Bel, Motorola) 4:29

EQUESTRIANISM

HOME PARK: Royal Windsor Horse Show: Castle Stakes: 1, Equity (C McAuley) clear round, 40.68sec; 2, Carat (G Goosen) clear, 41.82; 3, Pinon Voice (J Fisher) clear, 43.74. Champion Polo Pony: Saltron (Lord Patrick Beresford). Colt championship: Champion: Woodlands Pippin (N Jubert) Reserve: Galaxy II (C Mackness)

FOOTBALL

Tuesday's late results

CENTENARY MATCH: West Ham United 1 Sporting Lisbon 4.

ICIS LEAGUE: Carlton Cup Final: Boreham Wood 2 Sutton United 2 (Sutton won 4-3 on pens).

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Crystal Palace 1 Arsenal 1; Luton 3 West Ham 2; Watford 1 Southampton 2.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Everton 1 Derby County 1. Second division: Coventry 0 Leicester 0; Rotherham 4 Mansfield Town 2; Huddersfield Town 1 Bradford City 0.

OTHER MATCH: Hitchin 2 Chelsea 5.

LONDON FA WOMEN'S CUP: Final: *Arsenal Ladies 2 Millwall Lionesses 1.*

ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Bloxwich 2 Olton Royale 2; Coleshill 1 Shirley 0; Highgate 0 Southam 2; Kings Heath 1 Alvechurch Villa 0, Studley BKL 2 Massey Ferguson 2.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Kidsgrove 1 Darwen 1

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier Division: Beaconsfield SYCOB 0 Hillingdon Borough 5; Binnendown Rovers 1 Waltham Abbey 1; Corinthian Casuals 3 Amersham Town 0; Harrnehill Town 1 Brook House 1; Tufnell Park 1 St Margaretsbury 2.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: *Arundel 2 Portfield 1.*

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE *Premier Division:* Shillington 1 Biggleswade Town 2; Dunstable United 1 Welwyn Garden City 1

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Under-15 International: Germany 3 England 0 (in Berlin). Manchester Cup: Final: Salford 3 Bury 1.

GERMAN LEAGUE: Hansa Rostock 1 Schalke 2; Borussia Dortmund 2 Bayer Leverkusen 0; 1860 Munich 1 Kaiserslautern 1; Werder Bremen 3 Bayern Munich 2.

GOLF

ASCOT: Gosen British Professional Tour: First-round scores: 68: M Stamford (Salford). 69: N Roderick, (unattached). 70: P Sherman (Ashford, Kent), N Brown (Mid Herts); P Young (Windlesham). 71: A Frontal-Gay (Leeds Golf Centre), K McDonald (Goodwood), P Farmer (Wanstead), B Dredge (Bryn Meadow), S Page (Broome Park), C Tingey (Colnbrook Golf Range). 72: D Haines (Isle of Wedmore), A Wall (unattached), N Mitchell (The Lindo), W Hawkes (Royal Blackheath), N Graves (Hamptworth), G Howell (Farndown); G Furey (Piesington)

HOCKEY

IPOH, Malaysia: Sultan Azlan Shah Cup tournament: India 3 Malaysia 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Australia	3	2	1	0	13	2	5
South Korea	3	1	2	0	4	2	4
Malaysia	4	2	0	2	8	12	4
Netherlands	3	1	1	1	2	3	3
India	4	1	0	3	4	7	2
Great Britain	3	1	0	2	4	9	2

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Stanley Cup: Play-offs: Semi-finals: Eastern Conference: Pittsburgh 3 NY Rangers 2 (Pittsburgh lead best-of-seven series 2-1); Philadelphia 3 Florida 1 (Philadelphia lead 2-1)

RUGBY UNION

SUPER 12 TOURNAMENT: Transvaal 34 Auckland 22 (in Johannesburg)

ITALIAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Semi-finals, second leg: San Donà 6 Treviso 24; Padova 26 Milan 38. Final: Treviso v Milan.

TENNIS

ROME: Women's tournament: Second round: K Habsudova (Slovakia) bt J Kruger (SA) 6-2, 6-3; N Tauziat (Fr) bt M Grzybowska (Pol) 6-1, 6-1; C Martinez (Sp) bt T Jaremenca (Yug) 6-3, 6-2; M Hingis (Switzerland) bt V Ruano-Pascual (Sp) 6-3, 6-1; B Schett (Austria) bt K Nowak (Pol) 6-0, 7-5; S Testud (Fr) bt S Jeyaseelan (Can) 6-4, 6-3; I Spirlea (Rom) bt R Zrubakova (Slovakia) 6-3, 6-2, B Fulco-Villella (Arg) bt Y Basuki (Indo) 6-2, 6-3; P Suarez (Arg) bt J Kandarr (Ger) 6-2, 6-2; M Maleeva (Bul) bt M A Sanchez Lorenzo (Sp) 6-1, 6-3; S Cecchini (It) bt G Pezzichini (It) 6-4, 6-4; A Sanchez Vicario (Sp) bt A Fusai (Fr) 6-2, 6-3; S Graf (Ger) bt A Dechaume-Balleret (Fr) 6-3, 7-6; F Porietti (It) bt L Lee (US) 5-7, 6-4, 6-2, J Wiesner (Austria) bt F Lubani (It) 6-4, 6-1. Third round: I Spirlea (Rom) bt K Habsudova (Slovakia) 6-4, 6-2.

HAMBURG: Men's tournament: Second round: J Burillo (Sp) bt A Medvedov (Ukr) 6-3, 6-4; S Dosedel (Cz) bt K Kucera (Cz) 6-4, 6-4; M Rosset (Switz) bt O Gross (Ger) 6-2, 6-1; N Caseiras (Sp) bt M Washington (US) 6-1, 6-0, R Krajicek (Holl) bt M Gaisner (Ger) 6-7, 7-6, 6-4; S Bruguera (Sp) bt F Roig (Sp) 6-2, 7-5; G Schaller (Austria) bt A Olhovskiy (Russ) 7-5, 3-6, 7-6; B Becker (Ger) bt E Alvarez (Sp) 6-2, 3-6, 6-3

PINEHURST, North Carolina: Men's tournament (US unless stated): First round: M Gustafsson (Swe) bt J Apell (Swe) 6-2, 6-3; R Ranebarg bt C Woodruff 7-5, 0-6, 6-4; J Frana (Arg) bt D Wheaton 7-5, 6-2, 6-4, J Stoltenberg (Aus) bt N Kidd (Swe) 6-7, 6-4, 6-3; M Wilander (Swe) bt S Stolle (Aus) 6-4, 6-4; J Bjorkman (Swe) bt N Marques (Por) 7-5, 6-2; J Palmer bt B Behrens 6-4, 7-5; J Van Herck (Bel) bt M Tebbutt (Aus) 7-6, 6-3; K Alami (Mor) bt M Merklein 6-2, 6-3

LEE-ON-SOLENT: LTA spring satellite tournament (GB unless stated) Men: First round: P Kilderry (Aus) bt W Trew (Austria) 3-6, 6-3, 7-5; P Moschoutis (Gri) bt C Bennet 6-3, 7-6; F Dondo (Uru) bt J Fox 6-2, 6-0; A Dupuis (Fr) bt R Barbier (Fr) 6-3, 6-0; O Burneza (Sp) bt T Spinks 6-3, 7-5, G Steenkamp (SA) bt P Hand 7-6, 6-3, R Naddach (Ger) bt J Davidson 6-2, 2-6, 6-3; M Goodarz (Aus) bt M Wyeth 6-1, 6-2; A Richardson bt D Sanders 6-2, 6-2; C Wall bt P Pala (Cz) 7-6, 6-3; G Steenkamp (SA) bt P Hand 7-6, 6-3. Women: Second round: J Steck (SA) bt A Wainwright 6-3, 6-2, K Cross bt A Jonson (Aus) 3-6, 6-1, 6-1; M Lamorre (Fr) bt J Pullin 6-4, 6-7, 6-3, L Ahl bt J Wood 6-4, 6-2, J Choudhury bt M Wollkowndt (Swe) 5-7, 6-1, 6-1; A Kummey (Aus) bt R Mawdsley (Aus) 6-3, 6-2, M Miller bt E Lobesoncid (Fr) 1-6, 6-1, 6-3

POOLS DIVIDENDS

LITTLEWOODS: Treble chance: 22pts £246,415.60, 21 £689.15, 20 £94.95, 19 £14.90, 18 £3.85. Four draws: £159.30. 10 homes: void. Five aways £102.05.

VERNONS: Treble chance: 22pts £47,200.85, 21 £237.10, 20 £37.15, 19 £6.60. 10 homes void. Five aways £11.10

ZETTERS: Treble chance: 22pts £3,950.85, 21 £15.25, 20 £2.65, 19 £0.35. Four draws: £67.20. Eight homes: void. Four aways £20.80. Lucky numbers, 11 21 35 26 34 30. Top 10 points: pool: 19 £77.20, 18 £9.60.

FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket match*

Endsleigh Insurance League
Second division
*Brighton v York (11.0)

ICIS LEAGUE: Carlton Trophy: Final: Banstead v Canvey Island.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Luton v Millwall (2.0)

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Langford v Biggleswade.

ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Alvechurch Villa v Olton Royale, Bloxwich v Upton, Kings Heath v Handrahan Timbers; Shirley v Northfield; Wellesbourne v Ansells.

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division Cup: Final: Cirencester v Shortwood.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: Floodlit Trophy: Final: Mossley v Newcastle Town

JEWSON LEAGUE: Premier division: Harwich and Parkeston v Comard

SCHOOLS MATCHES: English Knowles Cup: Final: Essex v Herts (at Southend)

CRICKET

Tetley's challenge series
11 0, second day of three
WORCESTER: Worcestershire v Indians

Britannic Assurance championship
11 0, first day of four, 104 overs minimum
SOUTHAMPTON: Hampshire v Essex
OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire v Leicestershire
LORD'S: Middlesex v Durham
NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v Glamorgan
TAUNTON: Somerset v Nottinghamshire
THE OVAL: Surrey v Kent
HOVE: Sussex v Warwickshire
SHEFFIELD: Yorkshire v Derbyshire

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (final day of three): Bristol: Gloucestershire v Hampshire.

BAIN HOGG TROPHY (one day): Derby: Derbyshire v Yorkshire. Chester-le-Street: Durham v Lancashire. Leicester: Leicestershire v Warwickshire. Eastbourne: Sussex v Essex.

OTHER SPORT

EQUESTRIANISM: Windsor Horse Show (Horse Park, Windsor)

SPEEDWAY: Premier League: London v Peterborough (7.30); Middlesbrough v Ipswich (7.30); Sheffield v Oxford (7.45).

TENNIS: LTA spring satellite tournament (Lee-on-Solent)

YESTERDAY'S RACING RESULTS

Chester

Going: good

2.10 (1m 4f 66yd) 1, Backdrop (J Reid, 6-1); 2, Pleasant Surprise (16-1); 3, Oversman (20-1). Micky Boy 11-2 fav. 13 ran. NR: 3kl P Chapple-Hyam. Tote: £7.00; £2.10, £5.10, £7.20. DF: £110.50. Trio: £893.10. CSF: £87.23. Tricast: £1,652.48. After a stewards' inquiry, Montecristo, who finished first, was disqualified and placed last.

2.40 (5f 16yd) 1, Vassal (Pat Eddery, 5-6 fav); 2, Raven Master (5-1); 3, Mujova (33-1). 9 ran. ¼l, 1¼l M Channon. Tote: £1.90; £1.20, £2.30, £5.20. DF: £4.30. Trio: £41.80. CSF: £8.25

3.10 (1m 3f 79yd) 1, Tout A Coup (M J Kinane, 8-1); 2, Solar Crystal (5-4 fav), 3, Shemozzle (7-1), 8 ran 2l, hd, G Cusack. Tote: £7.60; £1.80, £1.40, £1.60. DF: £5.50. CSF: £18.98

3.40 (2m 2f 147yd) 1, Merit (J Quinn, 11-2); 2, Danaydan (14-1); 3, Corradini (12-1); 4, Unchanged (14-1). Triumph 4-1 fav. 18 ran. 6l, 1l P Cole. Tote: £7.40; £2.00, £4.10, £3.30, £2.90. DF: £77.80. Trio: £377.40. CSF: £80.28. Tricast: £851.64

4.10 (6f 18yd) 1, Princely Sound (M Fenton, 11-1); 2, Mytions Mistake (11-1); 3, Wootman's Waqh (9-1) Angaur 5-2 fav. 12 ran. NR: Don't Tell Anyone ¾l, 1½l M Bell. Tote: £18.70; £3.80, £2.80, £2.40. DF: £117.80. Trio: £234.40. CSF: £120.37. Tricast: £1,065.69.

4.40 (7f 2yd) 1, Aunty Jane (Pat Eddery, 2-1 fav); 2, Charlotte Corday (5-1); 3, Hulm (14-1). 12 ran 4l, 1¼l, B Hills. Tote: £2.70; £1.50, £2.60, £3.80. DF: £9.30. Trio: £61.80. CSF: £13.70

Jackpot: £13,490.80 (0.13 winning tickets; pool of £13,300.86 carried forward to Chester today).

Placepot: £386.90. Quadpot: £43.60.

Ayr

Going: good to soft

1.50 (5f) 1, Express Girl (Darren Moffatt, 8-1); 2, Saponor Premium (6-4 fav); 3, Ben's Ridge (12-1). 9 ran 2¼l, 1l D Moffatt. Tote: £19.60; £3.10, £1.10, £6.70. DF: £19.30. Trio: £90.40 (part won; pool of £103.20 carried forward to 4.10 at Chester today). CSF: £23.78

2.20 (5f) 1, Just Bob (Martin Dwyer, 4-1); 2, Seconds Away (33-1); 3, Penny's Wishing (6-1) Precious Girl 7-2 fav. 11 ran. 1¼l, 3l S Kettlewell. Tote: £3.10; £2.10, £15.70, £2.10. DF: £47.90. Trio: not won (pool of £112.25 carried forward to 4.10 at Chester today). CSF: £104.53. Tricast: £731.46.

2.50 (1m 2f) 1, De-Vears Currie (J Fortune, 5-1); 2, Rattle (2-1), 3, Flyaway Blues (6-4 fav) 7 ran. Nk, 6l R Fisher. Tote: £10.10, £3.00, £1.40. DF: £9.00. CSF: £16.45.

3.20 (1m 2f 192yd) 1, Menfut (N Kennedy, 12-1); 2, Keep Batting (10-1); 3, Drummer Hicks (14-1). Giftbox 4-5 fav. 13 ran. ½l, 3½l W Ellery. Tote: £24.60; £9.50, £1.40, £2.70. DF: £82.10. Trio: £106.20. CSF: £127.46. Tricast: £1,584.68.

3.50 (1m) 1, Bold Patriot (G Duffield, 7-2); 2, Alambar (6-4 fav); 3, General Havon (4-1) 6 ran. 1¼l, 8l, J Hills. Tote: £3.60; £2.60, £1.10. DF: £3.40. CSF: £8.67.

4.20 (7f) 1, Highspeed (J Fortune, 33-1); 2, My Gallery (6-1); 3, Miss Pigalle (33-1); 4, Malzoom (33-1). Eben Naas 3-1 fav. 18 ran. 1½l, 4l, S Kettlewell. Tote: £34.60; £8.10, £2.30, £13.20, £12.20. DF: £153.20. Trio: not won (pool of £364.88 carried forward to 4.10 at Chester today). CSF: £212.42. Tricast: £6,101.97

Placepot: £1,479.40. Quadpot: £123.10.

Chepstow

Going: good to firm, firm patches

2.00 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Rosencrantz (R Davis, 16-1); 2, Spurnsnie (11-2); 3, Born To Please (4-1) Pleasant Surprise 5-2 fav. 12 ran. 5l, 4l Miss V Williams. Tote: £19.70; £2.80, £1.60, £1.90. DF: £65.80. Trio: £118.30. CSF: £99.23.

2.30 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Pair Of Jacks (A P McCoy, 7-2 jt-fav); 2, Mr Playfull (7-2 jt-fav); 3, Whistling Buck (15-2) 11 ran. NR: Lime Street Blues, Madame President. 2l, 4l T Naughton. Tote: £2.80; £1.60, £1.50, £2.70. DF: £7.10. Trio: £16.00. CSF: £15.76. Tricast: £80.44

3.00 (2m 3f 110yd ch) 1, Cracking Idea (R Johnson, 5-4 fav); 2, Manor Rhyme (7-1); 3, Deming Bud (12-1) 4 ran. 5l, dist, J Edwards. Tote: £2.30. DF: £5.70. CSF: £8.33.

3.30 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, Nordic Crown (D Bridgwater, 8-1); 2, The Black Monk (9-2 jt-fav); 3, Conway (9-2 jt-fav), 4, Miss Souter (10-1) 18 ran. 2l, 6l, M Pipe. Tote: £17.90; £3.20, £1.70, £1.90, £2.70. DF: £21.60. Trio: £120.80. CSF: £45.66. Tricast: £179.42. No bid

4.00 (3m ch) 1, James Pigg (D Bridgwater, 9-4); 2, Certain Angle (15-8 fav), 3, Black Church (15-2) 5 ran. 7l, 3l, M Pipe. Tote: £2.70; £2.00, £1.10. DF: £5.20. CSF: £6.99.

4.30 (3m hdle) 1, Eyeart (Mr A Farrant, 11-8 fav); 2, Quiet Dawn (5-2); 3, Jamwah (20-1). 12 ran. NR: Spring Grass. 3½l, 2l M Pipe. Tote: £2.30, £1.60, £1.10, £3.40. DF: £3.30. Trio: £29.90. CSF: £5.39. Tricast: £44.16

Placepot: £98.10. Quadpot: £15.70.

Tuesday's late results

Doncaster

Going: good to firm

8.30 (7f) 1, Cheerful Groom (N Kennedy, 20-1); 2, Sycamore Lodge (11-2); 3, Kid Ory (12-1), 4, Special-K (12-1) Alabang 3-1 fav. 17 ran. NR: Ochoa Rios. 1l, 1¾l S Bowring. Tote: £60.80; £9.00, £2.10, £3.90, £1.80. DF: £126.00. Trio: £450.60. CSF: £145.14. Tricast: £1,379.19.

7.00 (6f) 1, Hoh Returns (M Fenton, 7-1); 2, Thordis (7-1); 3, No Monkey Nuts (11-2) Alcalim 8-15 fav. 7 ran. 5l, ½l M Bell. Tote: £5.30, £2.50, £3.30. DF: £15.30. CSF: £49.03

7.30 (1m 4f) 1, Haya Ya Kelash (A Clark, 12-1); 2, Outstayed Welcome (8-1); 3, Ela-Ye-Mou (5-2 fav) 15 ran 1l, 1l N Babbage. Tote: £19.80; £4.70, £2.50, £1.90. DF: £72.80. Trio: £250.30. CSF: £112.93. Tricast: £306.08.

8.00 (1m) 1, Singapore Sling (W Ryan, 11-4); 2, Classic Leader (5-2 fav); 3, Victory Bound (9-1). 13 ran. NR: Gabrielle Gerard. 1l, 2l H Cecil. Tote: £3.00; £1.60, £1.90, £2.00. DF: £10.40. Trio: £5.60. CSF: £10.23.

8.30 (1m 2f 60yd) 1, Rassyel (J Fortune, 11-1); 2, Maradata (5-1); 3, Master M-E-N (16-1); 4, Seattle Alley (7-2 fav). 20 ran. 1½l, 1¾l, P Evans. Tote: £24.60; £4.40, £2.20, £4.00, £2.30. DF: £83.10. Trio: £589.90. CSF: £82.45. Tricast: £884.00.

Placepot: £290.60. Quadpot: £80.00.

Wincanton

Going: firm

6.15 (2m 5f ch) 1, Maremma Gale (K Gaule, 100-30); 2, Herbert Buchanan (9-4 fav); 3, Sea Patrol (5-1). 11 ran. 2l, sh hd, N Mitchell. Tote: £3.

هكذا من الأصل

Dushyantor to take on Nash House in Dante

By Richard Evans
Racing Correspondent

HENRY CECIL yesterday threw down the gauntlet to Peter Chapple-Hyam by taking on Nash House, his Derby "talking horse", with two runners in the Dante Stakes at York next Wednesday.

The decision by the ten-times champion trainer to pitch Dushyantor and Storm Trooper against the once-raced Manton colt, who is sharing Derby favouritism, reflects Cecil's bullish mood and will elevate the York race into the key Epsom trial.

Dushyantor, unbeaten in two starts and the apple of Cecil's eye, had been pencilled in for the Michael Seely Glasgow Stakes next Thursday, when he would have had to give weight away to the likes of Astor Place and King Alex.

However, in a fascinating game of musical chairs, Cecil disclosed that Willie Ryan will deputise for the suspended Pat Eddery on Dushyantor while Michael Kinane has been booked to ride Storm Trooper, the Feilden Stakes winner. With Frankie Dettori also on the sidelines next week, Kinane has been signed up by the Godolphin team to ride Classic Cliche in the Yorkshire Cup and Charnwood Forest in the Lockinge Stakes at Newbury on Saturday week.

At Chester yesterday, Kinane demonstrated why he is in such demand as he timed a winning run to perfection on Tout A Coup in the Shadwell Stud Cheshire Oaks. The filly, owned and bred by Edmund Loder, was the first runner Gerry Cusack has had in Britain since he took out a licence to train in Ireland in 1994.

Cusack, 30, had previously spent seven years with Michael Stoute, including five years as his assistant.

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Lynch received a six-day ban after finishing first on Montecristo, left, at Chester

Tout A Coup had been sent to Goffs sales as a yearling but when she failed to reach her reserve Loder took her home and Cusack was soon on the telephone pleading to train her. "He kept badgering me and eventually I relented to keep him quiet," Loder said.

Cusack, who has 20 horses in his yard at the Curragh, admitted: "In this game you have got to do a lot of fishing to get up there." His perseverance has paid off handsomely and Tout A Coup will now be aimed for the Irish Oaks.

While Kinane rode a textbook race, Fergal Lynch gave a passable impression of a stock car driver as he barged his way to success on Montecristo in the opening Cheshire Regiment Handicap. The apprentice, who received a six-day suspension on Monday for irresponsible riding, was again before the stewards and received a similar sentence. Montecristo was disqualified and Backdrop promoted to first.

Although his offence appeared clear cut from the stands, Reg Hollinshead came to the defence of his apprentice jockey. "If I thought he rode irresponsibly he would be the first to know," he said. "I thought he rode a brilliant race to get out of trouble and go and win. He was like Lester Piggott out there, waiting and waiting until he was able to go. The first time a gap appeared he went and Richard Quinn went at the same time. Quinn's horse became unbalanced and the kid's didn't."

The other Quinn — Jimmy — had no such difficulties as he steered Merit to a success which was so comfortable in the Chester Cup it begged a question of the handicapper.

"I thought the handicapper had taken a bit of a chance with him," Anthony Penfold, racing manager to Merit's owner, Fahd Salman, commented. "One or two trainers were complaining beforehand about how we had got in with 7st 10lb after winning his final three races last season."

Minds Music to strike winning note on return

CHESTER
CHANNEL 4

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

2.40: Geoff Wragg, Henry Cecil and Barry Hills have trained eight of the last 11 winners and each has a fancied runner here. Prize Giving ran out one of the easiest winners of the season when landing a Newmarket handicap, while Red Robbo will appreciate today's faster surface after finishing a good third to Regal Archive at Sandown. However, in a race with limited betting appeal, **Babinda** could go well at a big price. Clive Brittain's runner justified favouritism in the Houghton Stakes at Newmarket last autumn on only his second start and that form now looks above average. The Old Vic colt should be able to improve significantly at this trip.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: Glorious Aragon
(3.10 Chester)

Next best: Minds Music
(3.40 Chester)

3.10: Glorious Aragon looks worth a bet. She overcame the big disadvantage of being drawn one at Sandown to finish an excellent third behind Mister Jolson 13 days ago, and Fulke Johnson Houghton is in cracking form. Last year, she ran a fine race here when finishing runner-up to Ziggy's Dancer. Eric Alston's tough sprinter is weighted to confirm the form and looks a big danger but the selection, having only her sixth race, has scope for further improvement. The speedy Mr Oscar won his only two starts last term and should go well from his favourable low draw.

3.40: This looks an above-average Ormonde with three group one-placed runners. Oscar Schindler was fourth in the Irish Derby and third in the Irish St Leger but may struggle to keep tabs on Dance A Dream and Minds Music. Dance A Dream won the Cheshire Oaks last year before going on to chase home Moonshell at Epsom. However, preference is for Minds Music, the St Leger runner-up, who is fit and fancied for his seasonal reappearance.

4.10: Stoppes Brow has solid claims in a very competitive handicap. Drawn next to the rails with Ray Cochrane booked to ride, Gary Moore's runner looks well handicapped judged on his all-weather form and bounced back to form on the turf when a close fourth at Salisbury last week. Having won at Lingfield and Goodwood, he should handle this course. The well-drawn Dawalib, winner of this race last year, has shown little this term but is fairly handicapped.

RICHARD EVANS

CHESTER

THUNDERER
2.10 Antonia's Choice
2.40 PRIZE GIVING (nap)
3.10 Glorious Aragon
3.40 Minds Music
4.10 Fame Again
4.40 Fahs

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.40 PRIZE GIVING (nap). 3.40 Minds Music.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 .. B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. J If jumps. F If flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD — DRAW: 5F-7F 122YD, LOW NUMBERS BEST
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING — SIS

2.10 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND SCEPTRE MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES
(2-Y-O: £6,976: 5f 16yd) (7 runners)

101	(3)	3	ANTONIA'S CHOICE 31 (BF) (Mrs C Dexters) J Berry 8-11	K Darley	–
102	(7)	0	CHAMPAGNE ON ICE 33 (Treble Chance Partners) P Evans 8-11	K Fallon	–
103	(1)	4	DANEHILL PRINCESS 29 (J Graham) R Hollinshead 8-11	L Dettori	–
104	(2)		DIZZY DANCER (G Mytton) A Balley 8-11	S Sanders	–
105	(6)		MANHATTAN DIAMOND (Mrs B Hughes) A Balley 8-11	D Wright (3)	–
106	(5)		RUBY TUESDAY (Caxton Corp) B McMahon 8-11	G Carter	–
107	(4)	2	SWIFT REFUSAL 45 (Wheatcroft Partners) M Haynes 8-11	C Rutter	–

BETTING: 6-4 Antonia's Choice, 3-1 Danehill Princess, 6-1 Dizzy Dancer, 8-1 Ruby Tuesday, Manhattan Diamond, 10-1 Swift Refusal, 16-1 Champagne On Ice.

1995: MYSTIQUE SMILE 8-11 J Carroll (6-1) J Berry 8 ran

2.40 BNFL INTERNATIONAL DEE STAKES — C4
(Listed race: 3-Y-O: £24,010: 1m 2f 75yd) (7 runners)

201	(1)	2111-0	BONARELLI 21 (V,C,F,G) (Sheikh Mohammed) M Stoute 8-11	L Dettori	91
202	(5)	31112-4	WEET-A-MINUTE 21 (F,G) (E Weetman) R Hollinshead 8 11	K Fallon	98
203	(6)	31-	BABINDA 208 (F) (S Manara) C Brittain 8-8	B Doyle	85
204	(4)	16-6	DESERT BOY 22 (F) (Lord Wellstock) P Chapple-Hyam 8-8	J Reid	95
205	(2)	8231-1	PRIZE GIVING 21 (D,F) (Lady Oppenheimer) G Wragg 8-8	M Hills	99
206	(3)	15-3	RED ROBBO 13 (F) (Lucayan Stud) N Cecil 8-8	Pat Eddery	89
207	(7)	21-5	TAWKIL 21 (C,F) (Hamdan Al Maktoum) B Hills 8-8	W Carson	94

BETTING: 3-1 Prize Giving, 7-2 Red Robbo, 9-2 Bonarelli, 5-1 Tawkil, 6-1 Babinda, 8-1 Weet-A-Minute, Desert Boy.

1995: PENTIRE 8-13 M Hills (9-4 fav) G Wragg 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

BONARELLI completed treble, beat Mushahid head in 5-runner listed race at Goodwood (1m, good) on penultimate start. Sep 95, WEET-A-MINUTE 5l and neck 4th of 11 to Storm Trooper in listed race at Newmarket (1m 1f, good to firm) with TAWKIL 2l 5th and BONARELLI 21/ 6th. BABINDA beat Mediama Steelen 2l in 5-runner conditions race at Newmarket (7f, good to firm). DESERT BOY about 4l 6th of 8 to Cayman Kai in listed handicap at Newmarket (7f, good to firm) PRIZE GIVING beat Tenno Hills 3l in 10-runner handicap at Newmarket (1m 2f, good to firm). RED ROBBO 3l 3rd of 7 to Regal Archive in conditions race at Sandown (1m, good) TAWKIL beat Hidden Oasis 1¼l in 5-runner maiden here (7f, good to firm) on penultimate start. Selection: TAWKIL

3.10 WAYMAN-HALES RATED HANDICAP — C4
(£9,447: 5f 16yd) (12 runners)

301	(4)	5/11-	MR OSCAR 247 (D,F) (W McKeever) M Johnston 4-9-7	J Weaver	94
302	(9)	212110-	CROWDED AVENUE 224 (D,F,G) (T Wellard) P Mitchell 4-9-3	S Sanders	90
303	(3)	001101	ANZIO 20 (B,D,F,G,S) (T Staunton) Miss G Kelleway 5-8-13	R Cochrane	99
304	(6)	052-324	INHERENT MAGIC 96 (D,BF,G,S) (Mrs D Winstanly) W Muir 7-8-11	J Reid	94
305	(2)	445-231	LADY SHERIFF 7 (D,F,G) (E Mangani) R Hollinshead 5-8-7 (3ex)	F Lynch (5)	97
306	(11)	21044-0	THE HAPPY FOX 48 (D,F,G) (G Whitaker) B McMahon 4-8-5	G Carter	91
307	(7)	581-450	ZIGGY'S DANCER 12 (CD,F,G) (P Barry) E Alston 5-8-4	S D Williams	95
308	(12)	01250-0	PALACESATE JACK 9 (B,D,F,G,S) (N Warburton) J Berry 5-8-4	K Darley	90
309	(5)	52240-3	GLORIOUS ARAGON 13 (Lord Leverhulme) R Johnson Houghton 4-8-4	A Culhane	94
310	(10)	586502-	HINTON ROCK 255 (D,F) (P Freeman) A Balley 4-8-4	L Dettori	91
311	(1)	0404-01	LAGO DI VARANO 21 (V,D,F,G,S) (R Whitaker) R Whitaker 4-8-4	Dale Gibson	98
312	(8)	00004-0	ASHTINA 13 (CD,F,G,S) (Ms S Joynes) B Pearce 11-8-4	J Quinn	92

Long handicap: Glorious Aragon 8-2, Hinton Rock 8-1, Lago Di Varano 8-1, Ashtina 7-5

BETTING: 3-1 Mr Oscar, 4-1 Crowded Avenue, 6-1 Anzio, Glorious Aragon, 10-1 Hinton Rock, Inherent Magic, 12-1 others.

1995: ASHTINA 10-8-13 Pat Eddery (10-1) R Hodges 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

MR OSCAR completed double, beat Lucky Parkes 5l in 5-runner conditions race at Leicester (5f, firm) with ANZIO (4lb better off) 5½l 4th CROWDED AVENUE beat Miami Banker 1l in 11-runner handicap at Epsom (5f, good to firm) on penultimate start with ASHTINA (11lb better off) 3l 7th. ANZIO beat Top Banana ¾l in 13-runner handicap at Newbury (5f, good to soft) with ZIGGY'S DANCER (9lb better off) 6¼l 6th. INHERENT MAGIC about 1l 4th of 7 to Lift Boy in claimer at Lingfield (AW, 5f)

LADY SHERIFF beat Perfect Brave head in 9-runner handicap at Wolverhampton (AW, 5f). GLORIOUS ARAGON 2l and short-head 3rd of 17 to Mister Jolson in handicap at Sandown (5f, good) with ASHTINA (8lb worse off) 10l 16th. HINTON ROCK 1¾l 2nd of 16 to Rhythmic Dancer in claimer at Warwick (5f, good to firm). LAGO DI VARANO beat La Suquet 1¾l in 10-runner claimer at Ripon (5f, good to firm)
Selection: ANZIO

3.40 ORMONDE STAKES — C4
(Group III: £29,520: 1m 5f 89yd) (8 runners)

401	(6)	10210-1	FURTHER FLIGHT 17 (C,F,G,S) (S Wingfield Digby) P Haslam 3-9-0	M Hills	90
402	(1)	2-21	ELECTION DAY 22 (G) (Lord Weinstock) M Stoute 4-9-11	W Carson	78
403	(3)	12221-	MINDS MUSIC 223 (F,G) (Ramzan Family) H Cecil 4-9-11	Pat Eddery	95
404	(2)	28443-2	OSCAR SCHINDLER 19 (G) (O Lehanert) R Charlton 4-9-11	M J Kinane	69
405	(7)	345/323-	SHANBO 357 (C,D,F,S) (Mrs C Entwisle) C Brittain 9-5-11	B Doyle	89
406	(5)	01313-1	SPOUT 19 (G,S) (Lady Rothschild) R Charlton 4-8-11	NON-RUNNER	94
407	(8)	16/1246-	DANCE A DREAM 367 (C,F) (Cheveley Park Stud) M Stoute 4-8-8	L Dettori	97
408	(4)	5113-50	POPPY CAREW 12 (F,G) (Mrs P Harris) P Harris 4-8-8	G Hind	90

BETTING: 13-8 Minds Music, 4-1 Dance A Dream, Further Flight, 7-1 Shanbo, 8-1 Oscar Schindler, Election Day, 14-1 Poppy Carew

1995: ZILZAL ZAMAAN 4-8-11 W R Swinburn (9-2) M Stoute 4 ran

FORM FOCUS

FURTHER FLIGHT beat Assessor 1¾l in 4-runner conditions race at Nottingham (1m 6f, good to firm). ELECTION DAY beat Adord neck in 12-runner maiden at Pontefract (1m 2f, good). MINDS MUSIC 3½l 2nd of 10 to Classic Cliche in St Leger at Doncaster (1m 6f 132yd, good to soft) on penultimate start. OSCAR SCHINDLER 6l 2nd of 5 to Mahbajie in conditions race at Leopardstown (1m 4f, soft) Previously head and 3l 3rd of 7 to Strategic Choice in group 1 Jefferson Smurfit Memorial Irish St Leger at The Curragh (1m 6f, good) on penultimate start. SHANBO, won the race in 1993 and 1994, 1¼l 2nd of 4 to Zilzal Zamaan in this race (good to firm, 4 ran) on penultimate start. DANCE A DREAM best effort last season, 1¼l 2nd at 10 to Moonshell in group 1 Vodafone Oaks at Epsom (1m 4f, good to firm) POPPY CAREW 6¼l 7th of 11 to Sergeyeva in group III T G I Friday's Gordon Richards Stakes at Sandown (1m 2f, good)
Selection: DANCE A DREAM

4.10 WYNN HANDICAP — C4
(£9,228: 7f 122yd) (18 runners)

501	(6)	35300-0	PINKERTON'S PAL 22 (F) (Miss E Macgregor) C Brittain 5-10-0	B Doyle	89
502	(16)	1311-0	HAND CRAFT 16 (D,F,S) (Mrs M Haggas) W Haggas 4-9-7	R Hills	89
503	(10)	5000-43	CHICKAWICKA 5 (V,CD,S,S) (Mentley Moor Auctions) B Pelling 5-9-7	T Sprake	93
504	(9)	0321-03	HIGHBORN 29 (CD,F,S) (Yorkshire Racing Club) P Felgate 7-9-7	K Darley	94
505	(4)	0/42537	CROSSILLION 561 (F,G,S) (G Wragg) G Wragg 8-9-6	J Quinn	–
506	(7)	301025	PENGAMON 13 (C,F,G) (Miss A Serafinowa) N Callingridge 4-9-5	J Quinn	96
507	(13)	234-000	FAME ASAIN 5 (D,G,S) (M Charlton) Mrs J Ramsden 4-9-4	K Fallon	89
508	(14)	24605-0	ELITE HOPE 13 (D,G) (Elite Racing) C Egerton 4-9-4	T Quinn	91
509	(15)	5/4451-6	SAMWAR 8 (D,G) (Maygrain Ltd) Miss K Kellaway 4-9-2	L Dettori	95
510	(15)	21000-2	APOLLONIO 27 (V,F) (J Ruggles) J Fanshawe 4-9-1	D Harrison	95
511	(11)	400-501	SMART GUEST 18 (G,S) (P Murphy) J Weaver 4-8-13	J Weaver	90
512	(8)	0P-0101	SCHARNHORST 15 (D,F,G,S) (Mackenzie Print) S Dow 4-8-11	A Daly (5)	91
513	(1)	20-0204	STOPPES BROW 7 (V,D,F,G) (C Pennick) B L Moore 4-8-8	R Cochrane	93
514	(3)	13600-0	PARLIAMENT PIECE 31 (CD,F,G) (G Farndon) D Nicholls 10-8-4	J Bramhill (7)	93
515	(2)	100-000	DAWALIB 8 (CD,F,G) (J Brown) D Haydn Jones 6-8-2	A Mackay	89
516	(12)	9-02400	WENTBRIDGE LAD 5 (CD,F,G,S) (J Pugh) P Evans 5-8-0	G Hind	98
517	(5)	005105	LITTLE IBNR 7 (D,F,G) (Saltmerton Transport) P Evans 5-8-0	Iona Wands (7)	96
518	(17)	20650-8	PERSIAN FAYRE 12 (F) (M Grubb) J Berry 4-7-13	G Carter	89

BETTING: 5-1 Highborn, 6-1 Chickawicka, 7-1 Samwar, 8-1 Fame Again, 10-1 Apollonio, 12-1 Pengamon, 14-1 Hand Craft, 16-1 others

1995: DAWALIB 5-8-0 W Carson (3-1 fav) D Haydn Jones 17 ran

FORM FOCUS

CHICKAWICKA 3½l 3rd of 18 to New Century in handicap at Thirsk (1m, good to firm) with FAME ASAIN 4¾l 7th and WENTBRIDGE LAD 2¼l 16th. HIGHBORN 3¼l 3rd of 24 to Sapar Bend in handicap at Ripon (5f, good). PENGAMON neck 2nd of 8 to Wellen Arsenal in conditions race at Warwick (7f, good) on penultimate start with CHICKAWICKA (5lb better off) 3¼l 4th. SAMWAR about 5½l 6th of 24 to Yeast in handicap at Ascot (7f, good to firm) with DAWALIB (won this race last year) (3lb better off) 8½l 15th. APOLLONIO 1l 2nd of 9 to Star Talent in good stakes at Brighton (7f, firm). SCHARNHORST beat The Stager neck in 10-runner listed stakes at Folkestone (7f, firm) with DAWALIB (7lb better off) 8½l 7th. STOPPES BROW about 1l 4th of 20 to King Pompi in apprentices' handicap at Salisbury (7f, good to firm) WENTBRIDGE LAD 8½l 8th of 31 to Treggaron in handicap at Ascot (1m, good to firm).
Selection: APOLLONIO

4.40 EATON HANDICAP
(£7,460: 1m 4f 66yd) (10 runners)

601	(3)	526-3	HORESTI 23 (Dayspring) C Brittain 4-9-11	B Doyle	92
602	(2)	81160-0	LEADING SPIRIT 27 (D,G,S) (Indevia Partners) C Wall 4-9-8	Pat Eddery	93
603	(10)	32234-2	BRAILLE 3 (C,D,F,G,S) (Winning Feature) M Meagher 5-9-8	G Faulkner (7)	98
604	(1)	221610	MAPLE BAY 28 (BF,G) (R Matthews) A Balley 7-9-3	P Roberts (5)	98
605	(8)	03310-4	FAHS 22 (D,G) (City Industrial Supplies) R Akehurst 4-9-1	T Quinn	94
606	(5)	334351-	ELA MAN HOWA 117J (F,G) (Penta Club) N Tinkler 5-8-5	G Carter	91
607	(4)	06-00	ORINOCO RIVER 14 (V) (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 3-8-3	D Harrison	89
608	(6)	3000-56	AMBIDEXTROUS 23J (V) (Mrs C McPhail) E Alston 4-8-3	D Wright (3)	94
609	(9)	6-12524	AJDAR 16 (BF,G) (Mrs S Carr) Miss G Kelleway 5-8-2	S Sanders	98
610	(7)	2260/	KADARI 24J (V,G,S) (H Clewlow) W Clay 7-7-10	N Carlisle	–

Long handicap: Kadari 7-9.

BETTING: 9-4 Fahs, 7-2 Braille, 5-1 Horesti, 8-1 Leading Spirit, Maple Bay, 10-1 Ela Man Howa, 12-1 Orinoco River, 14-1 others.

1995: KILLICK 7-7-13 G Bardwell (8-1) A Balley 11 ran

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Brighton: 2.50 Bear To Dance. 4.50 Nomadic Dancer. Chester: 2.40 Bonarelli. 4.10 Apollonio. 4.40 Orinoco River. Hamilton Park: 8.30 Klerchem, Monte Cavo. Sedgefield: 8.45 Convincing. 7.45 Clover Girl. 8.45 Fret. Southwell: 3.00 Bajan Frontier, Born A Lady.

BRIGHTON

THUNDERER
2.20 Joint Venture. 2.50 No Sympathy. 3.20 Dancing Lawyer. 3.50 Prince Danzig. 4.20 Roman Reel. 4.50 Time For Tea.

GOING: FIRM — SIS
DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.20 EBF ST ANN'S WELLS MAIDEN ESTATES
(2-Y-O: £3,117: 5f 59yd) (4 runners)

1	(3)	242	JOINT VENTURE 10 B Meehan 9-0	M Tebbutt	–
2	(2)	6	MRS'S DOUBLE 12 B Lewis 9-0	S Whitworth	–
3	(1)		MISTY CAY 5 Dow 8-9	B Thomson	–
4	(4)	23	WAIT FOR ROSIE 22 (BF) M Channon 8-9	P P Murphy (5)	–

5-4 Joint Venture, 6-4 Wait For Rosie, 4-1 Misty Cay, 12-1 Mike's Double.

2.50 HOLLINGBURY CLAIMING STAKES
(3-Y-O: £2,381: 6f 209yd) (11)

1	(1)	5-05	RED TIME 9 M Saunders 8-13	R Price	82
2	(9)	50-	MAY KING MAYHEM 247 Mrs A King 8-8	A Garth	–
3	(6)	60-0	VELVET JONES 23 G Charles-Jones 8-9	S Whitworth	85
4	(2)	0050	DAILY RISK 12 S Dow 8-7	B Thomson	85
5	(8)	4314	FOREMAN 75 (B,G) R Simpson 8-7	S Drowne (3)	94
6	(7)	0-00	BAKER 27 J Akehurst 8-5	J D Smith (5)	85
7	(10)	0-40	BEAR TO DANCE 68 (B) John Berry 8-4	R Perham	76
8	(11)	00	REMEMBER STAR 20 A Newcombe 8-4	A McGlone	89
9	(3)		SIMPLY SEVEN P Butler 8-3	P McCabe (3)	–
10	(4)	4-03	NO SYMPATHY 62 (C,F) G L Moore 8-2	Dane O'Neill (3)	81
11	(5)	5600	WINGNUT 9 (G) M Haynes 7-12	D O'Shea	90

9-4 Foreman, 3-1 No Sympathy, 7-2 Daily Risk, 7-1 Wingnut, 8-1 Velvet Jones, 10-1 Red Time, 12-1 Bear To Dance, 14-1 others.

3.20 BRIGHTON FESTIVAL HANDICAP
(£3,398: 6f 209yd) (14)

1	(7)	6436	GRANGE PLACE 17 (D,6,S) T Naughton 5-10-0	Dane O'Neill (3)	93
2	(9)	6003	OFFICE HOURS 16 C Cyzer 4-9-13	W J O'Connor	85
3	(2)	6100	DANCING LAWYER 17 (C,D,F,G) B Meehan 5-9-12	S Hannon (7)	99
4	(11)	0-00	NAPOLEON STAR 26 (C,F) M Saunders 5-9-9	R Price	91
5	(14)	5160	CRYSTAL HEIGHTS 17 (CD,F,G) R O'Sullivan 8-9-8	D Biggs	90
6	(12)	00-0	DOM PEPE 24 (D,BF,F,G) R Boss 5-9-6	G Duffield	91
7	(5)	56-1	RISKY ROMEO 3 (F,G) G Bravery 4-9-5	T Field (7)	91
8	(13)	3614	PERILOUS FLIGHT 78 (D,F,G) W Muir 5-9-4	Jean-Pierre Lopez	92
9	(10)	00-0	MR CUBE 7 (V,D,F,G) J Bradley 6-9-3	R Waterfield (7)	87
10	(1)	3305	LANCASHIRE LEGEND 17 S Dow 3-8-13	B Thomson	92
11	(4)	0-00	ROCKY WATERS 17 (D,F,G) P Burgoyne 7-8-11	P McCabe (3)	80
12	(3)	-022	COLLEGE NIGHT 17 C Dwyer 4-8-9	M Henry (5)	97
13	(6)	0-06	TRAPPER NORMAN 17 R Ingram 4-8-5	A McGlone	98
14	(8)	00-0	HANK-A-CHIEF 30 B Smart 3-8-4	A Whelan (3)	82

4-1 Perilous Flight, 5-1 College Night, Lancashire Legend, 6-1 Risky Romeo, 7-1 Grange Place, 8-1 Dancing Lawyer, Trapper Norman, 10-1 others

3.50 JIM TAYLOR MEMORIAL HANDICAP
(£3,125: 1m 3f 196yd) (11)

1	(8)	1405	PRINCE DANZIG 56 (CD,F,G) D Murray Smith 5-9-10	Dane O'Neill (3)	96
2	(4)	2-	PREROGATIVE 127J R Simpson 6-9-8	S Drowne (3)	–
3	(3)	42-0	EXHIBIT AIR 10 (CD,F,G) R Akehurst 6-9-7	N Gwilliams (7)	93
4	(5)	20-0	RACING HAWK 37 M Saunders 4-9-7	W J O'Connor	88
5	(1)	4631	BAG OF TRICKS 17 (CD,F,G) S Dow 6-9-3	B Thomson	93
6	(9)	0150	UNCHARTED WATERS 9 (CD,F) C Cyzer 5-8-11	G Duffield	93
7	(7)	2000	TOTAL RACH 8 (B,F,G) R Ingram 4-8-11	A McGlone	98
8	(6)	140-	SCENIC DANCER 185 (C,D,F,G,S) A Hide 8-8-5	A Whelan (3)	98
9	(11)	4555	RISKY TU 14 (D,G) P Kelleway 5-8-4	P McCabe (3)	95
10	(10)	0/0	NORTH TO GLORY 17 R Powles 5-7-10	D O'Shea	–
11	(2)	60-0	ZELISA 56 C Brittain 4-7-10	M Henry (5)	–

3-1 Bag Of Tricks, 7-2 Prince Danzig, 5-1 Risky Tu, 6-1 Scenic Dancer, 8-1 Exhibit Air, Uncharted Waters, 10-1 Total Rach, 12-1 others

4.20 VARNDEAN SELLING STAKES
(£2,070: 1m 1f 209yd) (13)

1	(6)	0544	ARABOYBILL 75J (B,C,F,G) R Simpson 5-9-8	S Drowne (3)	87
2	(13)	00	HANG A RIGHT 521J (F,G) C Dwyer 9-9-8	C Dwyer	–
3	(10)	30-0	JARVEY 35 P Eccles 4-9-8	B Fenton (5)	69
4	(12)	2240	ROMAN REEL 12 (CD,F,G) G L Moore 5-9-8	S Whitworth	80
5	(9)	60-0	THE LITTLE FERRET 106J (C,F) A Moore 6-9-8	R Perham	87
6	(11)	4145	SHARP GAZELLE 30 (C,F,S) B Smart 6-9-7	M Semple (7)	–
7	(1)	000-	GIMKA 307 J Watts 5-9-3	D Duffield	–
8	(7)	-055	AUTOBARBELE 35 (B) R Hannon 3-8-7	Dane O'Neill (3)	98
9	(13)	050-	HARTHILDS BOY 257 B Meehan 3-8-7	M Tebbutt	–
10	(11)	5002	HEVER GOLF DIAMOND 7 T Naughton 3-8-7	T Ashley (7)	95
11	(2)	000-	BOSTON TEA PARTY 181 A Moore 3-8-2	Candy Morris	86
12	(3)	4	MY BEAUTIFUL CREAM 27 A Newcombe 3-8-2	A McGlone	92
13	(7)	000-	RED SKY DELIGHT 206 P Butler 3-8-2	M Henry (5)	–

7-2 Roman Reel, 4-1 Sharp Gazelle, 5-1 Hever Golf Diamond, 6-1 The Little Ferret, 7-1 Scatterpath, 8-1 Autobarbelle, 10-1 others

4.50 COLDEAN MAIDEN HANDICAP
(£2,343: 5f 213yd) (9)

1	(4)	25-5	TIME FOR TEA 10 C Cyzer 3-10-0	G Duffield	91
2	(3)	0-43	FLAGSTAFF 12 (V) G L Moore 3-8-13	S Whitworth	92
3	(6)	-604	MAY QUEEN MEGAN 22 Mrs A King 3-8-13	A Garth	96
4	(5)	0400	CHEF'S LADY 27 J Bradley 4-8-11	S Drowne (3)	92
5	(8)	0400	VICTORIA SIOUX 9 J Pickering 3-8-10	Dane O'Neill (3)	92
6	(9)	6665	NOMADIC DANCER 26 (V) M Saunders 4-8-3	W J O'Connor	89
7	(1)	5000	DANTEAN 27 R O'Sullivan 4-8-6	D Biggs	69
8	(7)	3300	TRAPPER NORMAN 17 R Ingram 4-8-5	R Mullen (7)	84
9	(2)	600	OLD GOLD R TAN 35 J Powlton 3-7-10	M Henry (5)	96
10	(11)	0340	LORINS GOLD 7 A Turnell 6-7-10	M Henry (5)	–

5-1 Flagstaff, 7-2 Time For Tea, 4-1 May Queen Megan, 5-1 Lorins Gold, 7-1 Nomadic Dancer, 8-1 Victoria Sioux, 10-1 Chef's Lady, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: A Hide, 3 winners from 11 runners, 27.3%. R Akehurst, 23 from 90, 25.6%. R Flower, 5 from 21, 23.8%. B Meehan, 14 from 74, 18.9%. R Hannon, 30 from 168, 17.9%. R O'Sullivan, 10 from 60, 16.7%.

JOCKEYS: F McCabe, 6 winners from 27 rides, 22.2%. G Duffield, 17 from 89, 19.1%. J D Smith, 5 from 26, 17.9%. A Whelan, 4 from 36, 11.1%. D Biggs, 7 from 67, 10.4%

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER
2.00 Come Too Mamma's. 2.30 People Direct. 3.00 Born A Lady. 3.30 Elton Ledger. 4.00 Niteowl Raider. 4.30 Cuban Nights.

GOING: STANDARD — SIS
DRAW: 6F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.00 TULIP MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES
(2-Y-O: £2,381: 5f) (5 runners)

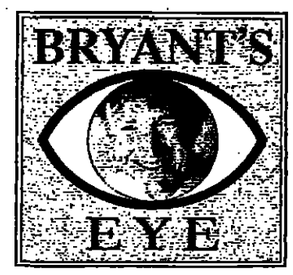
1			FRIZZY R Hollinshead 8-3	F Norton (7)	2
2			KOMASTA J Watson 8-3	J Carroll	4
3		3	COME TOO MAMMA'S 12 J Berry 8-0	L Charnock	3
4		0	CANDLE LIGHT 9 A Jarvis 7-13	J Tate	5
5			ALISADARA N Bycroft 7-12	G Bardwell	1

4-7 Come Too Mamma's, 7-2 Frizzy, 7-1 Candle Light, 5-1 Komasta, 16-1 Alisadara.

2.30 CAMELLIA CLAIMING STAKES
(3-Y-O: £2,381: 1m) (14)

1		-500	EAGLE CANYON 33 B Hanbury 9-7	J Stack (3)	10
2		0-02	ROYAL RAPPORT 27 S McMahon 9-3	L Newton (5)	2
3		0	TUDOR FALCON 16 W Haggas 9-3	D McKeown	11
4		9-	BELOW THE RED LINE 212 Mrs N Macauley 6-12	C Teague (5)	14
5		3202	BIT OF BOTHER 15 (CD,BF,G) Miss S Wilton 8-13	J Fortune	8
6		5446	MORRY'S GRAB HIRE 16 K Ivory 8-11	C Scally (7)	4
7		1613	PEOPLE DIRECT 10 (CD,G) J McAuliffe 8-10	J F Egan	15
8		0-40	SPHINX LEVELV 29 J Jarvis 8-7	J Tate	6
9		4334	EPPETITE 15 (CD,G) N Bycroft 8-2	G Bardwell	5
10			RAW DEAL G Fierro 8-2	D R McCabe (3)	7
11		0004	SUPREME ILLUSION 10 (B) John Berry 8-2	M Fenton	12
12		5	TASHTARYA 15 N Littmoden 8-2	T G McLaughlin	3

Women's endurance tests sporting prejudice



Women in sport, according to Baron Pierre de Coubertin, the father of the modern Olympics, "have but one task: that of the role of crowning the victor with garlands." He should have tried telling that to Beryl Burton — the most remarkable of Britain's women cyclists, who was found dead this week after falling from her racing bike.

Queen of her sport for more than a quarter of a century, she demonstrated something that many had believed impossible — a woman could compete with men in sport and beat them.

> 'There were howls of protest at the sight of ladies in distress'

In 1966, Britain's cyclists were surprised when, in the women's 100-mile national time-trial championship, Burton recorded a faster time than the men's champion. The following year she scared them even more. In a 12-hour event, where the idea was to cover as many miles as possible, she clocked up 277. The nearest male managed 276, which was a men's record.

Just to rub it in, as she romped past her rival on the road, she gave him a liquorice allsort "because I noticed he was struggling a bit." Men, she once observed, "are softer than women."

That sentiment would not have found much favour with de Coubertin, nor any of those other pioneers of organised games. Bustling Victorian Britain gave the rules and the ethos of sport to the world, but along with all that came their prejudices, too.

In 1896, when the Olympics were reborn in Athens, they were not deemed suitable for women and none were allowed to compete. One Greek woman named Melpomene wanted to enter the marathon but was refused. It is said she ran it anyway, setting out behind the men and finishing in four and a half hours.

It took years for women to elbow their way into the Olympics, and there were dramatic setbacks. There was uproar when they were allowed to run the 800 metres at Amsterdam in 1928. Five of the runners, certainly under-trained and inexperienced, dropped out during the race and others fell to the track at the finish. There were howls of protest at the sight of ladies in distress. It was 1960 before the event was again permitted, and 1984 before women got their marathon.

The irony is that present-day sporting medicine suggests that it is precisely in the areas of endurance activity — long-distance running and walking, swimming and cycling — that women may have the edge over men. And despite the restrictions of costume and culture, there were always women who showed tantalising glimpses of their great potential for endurance.

Take, for example, Lucy Walker, the first woman to climb the Matterhorn. She always set out from her village base clad in her Victorian crinoline, which she took off to climb in a red petticoat. Her stamina, like her dress, was dismissed as amusingly eccentric. In 1905, the Crowhurst otter hounds acquired a woman master, a Mrs Walter Chessman, who took over from her husband. She stirred everyone with her ability to cover almost 20 miles of cross country a day.

Her contemporary, Lottie Dod, was one of the greatest all-round athletes. She was a Wimbledon ladies' singles winner, an international hockey player, a champion skater, an Olympic silver medal-winner for archery, a champion billiard player and an Alpine mountaineer. She even foreshadowed the famous battle of the sexes between Bobby Riggs and Billie-Jean King by defeating the reigning Wimbledon champion, Ernest Renshaw, in a handicapped exhibition match.

King needed no handicap when she took on Riggs in a hugely-hyped tennis challenge in 1973. Age was enough. Riggs was 55, King 29, and she beat him in straight sets. But it is in endurance events, not in ball games, that a woman will sometimes emerge to prove that, not only is she equal, but superior to male opponents.

> 'As she romped past, she gave her rival a liquorice allsort'

The gap between men and women marathon runners has been closing relentlessly since Katherine Switzer gatecrashed the Boston Marathon in 1967. It turns out that women, far from being too frail for the marathon, may have physiological advantages at the distance. Anyone who has run alongside them knows that they often seem far more comfortable than men in the closing stages. Men frequently go to pieces between 18 and 22 miles when they "hit the wall".

The "wall" holds fewer terrors for women — who can draw on reserves of subcutaneous fat as a fuel supply — and, as with cycling and channel swimming, it is in that terrifying territory beyond the "wall" that women can out-perform the men.

Ranking with the achievements of Burton must be those of Ann Sayer, the long-distance walker. In 1979, at the age of 42, she broke a record that had defied some of Britain's toughest men. She walked 400 miles, from sea level to sea level, over the three highest mountains in Scotland, England and Wales. She had already broken a world record by walking 117 miles inside 24 hours.

This year she is back in the *Guinness Book of Records*. Not only is she holder of the Land's End to John o' Groat's walking record, but she is now Britain's oldest woman international athlete, representing her country over 200km at the age of 57 years 169 days.

As more and more women around the world take up sport, we will see more barriers fall and more women who are not just equal to men, but plainly superior. There is still a huge legacy of history to be overcome, but much has been achieved.

When Princess Maud, daughter of Queen Victoria, took up the infant sport of cycling, her mother had lead weights sewn into the hem of her skirts to keep them down as she pedalled. Freed from the weights of prejudice and the past, today's women may find that anything is possible — and that includes beating the men.

JOHN BRYANT

RADIO CHOICE

No jewel in this crown

On the Ropes. *Radio 4, 9.30am.*

We have heard many an interview in which John Humphrys has brought the roof crashing down on his victim's head. In *On the Ropes* he adopts a different tactic. He manoeuvres his prey into the spotlight and gets them to tell how they buried themselves in the rubble of shattered dreams. He resumes his series with some respectful questioning of Gerald Ratner, the jewellery tycoon whose tactless jokes about his company's products (earrings that would not last as long as a sandwich), made while addressing the Institute of Directors, wrecked his empire. If nothing else, the experience taught him the expensive lesson that making people laugh does not always go hand in hand with doing business with them.

Out of the Woods. *Radio 4, 2.00pm.*

I liked all the dialogue in Olwen Wymark's drama about two people whose bad dreams become interlocked. But there is one line I thought especially piquant. A traumatised insomniac (Kevin McNally) tells a fellow sufferer (Harriet Walter) about what he says is an infallible solution to their shared problem: tune in to the late-night spoken word on the BBC World Service. This struck me as a Bush House in-house joke without any truth in it. *Out of the Woods* is a World Service / Radio 4 co-production. The last thing it will do is sedate you. The reverse is true. Olwen Wymark has written a play that should keep you wide awake for fully 60 minutes.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo **4.00am** Clive Warren **6.30** Chris Evans **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Lisa I'Anson, incl at **12.30-12.45pm** Newsbeat **2.00** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Mark Goodier, incl **5.30-5.45** Newsbeat **7.00** Evening Session with Steve Lamacq and Jo Whiley **9.00** Soundbite, with Danny Kelly **10.00** Mark Radcliffe **12.00** Claire Sturgess

RADIO 2

FM Stereo **6.00am** Martin Kelner **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **1.30pm** Debbie Thrower **3.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** The News Huddlines **7.30** David Allan **9.00** Paul Jones **9.45** Gospel Train **10.30** The Jamesons **12.05am** Steve Madden, incl at **1.30** Pause for Thought **3.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** The Breakfast Programme incl **6.55, 7.55** Racing preview **8.35** The Magazine incl **10.35** Euronews **11.30** Health News **12.00** Midday with Mair incl **12.35pm** Moneycheck with Kate Derham **1.15** Entertainment News **2.05** Ruscoe on Five incl at **3.45** Entertainment News **4.00** John Inverdale Nationwide, incl **5.45** Entertainment News **7.00** News Extra with Valerie Sanderson, incl at **7.20** Sport **7.35** David Gower's Cricket Weekly David Gower and his guest look ahead to the new County Championship **9.05** SportsAmerica **9.35** American Graffiti **10.05** News Talk **11.00** Night Extra **12.05am** After Hours — Early Call **2.05** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.30am The Breakfast Show with Paul Ross **10.00** Scott Chisholm **1.00pm** Anna Raeburn **3.00** Tommy Boyd **5.00** Peter Deeley **7.00** Sport **10.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in **BST. 5.00am** Newsdesk **5.30** Europe Today **6.00** Newsday **6.30** Europe Today **7.00** News **7.15** World Today **7.30** Sports International **8.00** News **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** Off the Shelf **8.30** Network UK **9.00** News in German **9.15** Composer of the Month **9.45** Health Matters **10.00** News **10.05** Business **10.15** Sports International **10.45** Sport **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** BBC English **11.45** Off the Shelf **12.00** News **12.30pm** Meridian **1.00** News in German **1.15** Britain Today **1.30** Assignment **2.00** Newshour **3.00** News **3.05** Outlook **3.30** Multitrack X Press **4.00** News **4.05** Sport **4.15** BBC English **4.30** News in German **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** Business **5.45** Britain Today **6.00** News **6.10** World Today **6.25** Take Five **6.30** News in German **6.45** Sport **7.00** Newsdesk **7.30** Assignment **8.00** Newshour **9.00** News **9.01** Outlook **9.25** Words of Faith **9.30** John Peel **10.00** News **10.05** Business **10.15** Britain Today **10.30** Meridian **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** World Today **11.45** Sport **12.00** News **12.10am** Take Five **12.15** Soundbyte **12.30** Blues World **1.00** Newsdesk **1.30** Good Books **1.45** Britain Today **2.00** Newsdesk **2.30** Outlook **2.55** Words of Faith **3.00** Newsday **3.30** Thirty-Minute Drama **4.00** News **4.15** Sport **4.30** Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Mike Read **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Concerto **3.00** Jamie Crick **6.00** Newsnight **6.30** Sonata **7.00** Travel Guide, Beijing **8.00** Evening Concert **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00am** Mel Cooper

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono **9.00** Richard Skinner **12.00** Graham Dene **4.00pm** Nicky Horne **7.30** Paul Coyte **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** Robin Banks

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air. Includes, Beethoven (Piano Sonata in F minor, Op 2 No 1); Strauss (Violin Concerto), Handel (Coronation Anthem: The King shall rejoice); Elgar (Introduction and Allegro); Wagner (Dawn and Siegfried's Rhine Journey, Götterdämmerung); Weber (Symphony No 2 in C)
9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini. Includes, Debussy (En blanc et noir); Handel (Gentle Morpheus); Vaughan Williams (Symphony No 3, A Pastoral Symphony)
10.00 Musical Encounters. Geminiani (Concerto Grosso in D minor, Op 2 No 3); Brahms (Spring Song, Die Mainacht); Grainger (Hill Song No 1); Mozart (Piano Quartet E♭, K493) **11.00** *Artist of the Week.* Raphael Oleg, violin. Prokofiev (Violin Concerto No 1 in D) **11.30** Copland (Suite: Appalachian Spring)
12.00 Composer of the Week: Nielsen. Jens the Road Mender, Op 21 No 1c. Sagdrom; Violin Concerto
1.00pm Bel canto Voices. Patrick O'Connor's guest is Marilyn Horne (2/4)
2.00 Schools Radio Showcase **2.05** In the News **2.25** Something to Think About **2.40** Music Workshop
3.00 The BBC Orchestras: The BBC Philharmonic, under Matthias Bamert. Dohnanyi (Symphonic Minutes; Symphony No 2 in E)
4.10 A Spanish Jaunt. Iain Burnside and Susan Sharpe present a selection of pieces by Scarlatti and Adrian Jacks
5.00 The Music Machine: Young Musicians '96
5.15 In Tune. Natalie Wheen presents performances by the winners of this year's Royal Philharmonic Society Awards
7.30 Academy of St Martin. Director Kenneth Sillito, violin, Allison Eldredge, cello. Mozart (Cassation in G, K63, Final Musik); Bartok (Divertimento); Haydn (Cello Concerto in D), Mozart (Symphony No 29 in A, K201)
9.20 Typecasting. A look at Tenore robusto and Heldentenor voices with Gordon Stewart
9.35 Clara. Sandra Porter, soprano, and Graeme McNaught perform *Clara*, a song-cycle by Janice Galloway and Sally Beamish
10.00 Music Restored. The music of François Couperin. Sophie Danemann, soprano, Paul Agnew, high tenor, Rodrigo del Pozo, high tenor, and Peter Harvey, bass, with the Purcell Quartet, perform the Motet de Ste Suzanne, Dialogus inter deum et hominem and extracts from Les Nations (2/2)
10.45 Night Waves
11.30 Composer of the Week: Mendelssohn (r)
12.30am Jazz Notes, with Digby Fairweather
1.00 Night School. Together Stories **1.30** Music for Dance
2.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod. Euro-Concert. Beethoven (Piano Concerto No 3); Lutoslawski (Concerto for orchestra); Beethoven (Symphony No 5) **4.00** Early Music **5.00** Sequence

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast **6.00** News **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today incl **7.25, 8.25** Sport **7.45** Thought for the Day **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament **8.58** Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Face the Facts, with John Waite (r)
9.30 On the Ropes. See Choice (1/4)
10.00-10.30 News; Brighton Rock (FM only). Graham Greene's classic tale. With Steven Macintosh, Claire Skinner, Maurice Denham, Kenneth Cranham and John Benfield (3/5) (r)
10.00 Daily Service (LW only)
10.15 This Sceptr'd Isle (LW only)
10.30 Woman's Hour
11.30 From Our Own Correspondent
12.00 News; You and Yours
12.25pm Looking Forward to the Past. Paul Boateng, MP, is joined by Michael Fish, Louise Jameson, Victor Spinetti and Professor Norman Stone to discuss the lighter side of history **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One, presented by Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers 1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Out of the Woods. See Choice
3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift, with Daire Brohan
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Paul Allen sees a play based on the Nuremberg war trials and Sir Peter Hall's version of a Feydeau farce
4.45 Short Story: Scenes from a Country Churchyard, by Ted Walker
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Life, Death and Sex with Mike and Sue. Comedy series by Bill Dare (3/6)
7.00 News 7.20 The Fall of Trafalgar. Phil Smith concludes the tale of the rise and fall of Burnley's Trafalgar Gardens estate (2/2) (r)
8.00 The Purple, the Blue and the Red. A recent history of the Church of England and its relationship with the State written and presented in three parts by Anthony Howard of *The Times* (1/3)
8.45 Better Left Unsaid? An unsent letter by Roy Barnton to his father (5/6)
9.00 Does He Take Sugar? Presented by Frederic Dove
9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59** Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Waugh on Five Fronts. Read by the late Simon Cadell (4/5) (r)
11.00 Second Bite — Late Night. Last in the series of recordings from the 1995 First Bite Young Playwrights Festival. Me and Billie Marker, by Joyoti Grech. With Nisha K. Nayar, Monica Patel, Don Gilet, Ben Onwukwe and Jamilla Massey (r)
11.30 Ad Lib (FM only). In the first of a series of eight programmes Robert Robinson meets five hereditary peers of the realm (r)
11.30 Today in Parliament (LW)
12.00 News incl **12.27am** Weather
12.30 The Late Book: Tongues of Flame by Tim Parks. Read by John Duttine (7/8)
12.48 Shipping Forecast **1.00 As World Service**

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO UK.** MW 1053, 1089. **Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson and Jane Gregory**

Fortunes improved by jump-off triumph on opening day at Windsor

Victory on Equity dispels McAuley's negative thoughts

By Jenny MacArthur

CLAIRE McAULEY, who was dreading the Royal Windsor Horse Show because she usually does so badly, gained the most important win of her career on the opening day yesterday when she and the 11-year-old, Equity, comfortably won the Grade A Castle Stakes.

McAuley, 26, who lives at Ewhurst in Surrey and has competed at the show since she was 18, thought her Windsor jinx had struck again in the opening round. The French-bred Equity, who is owned by McAuley's sponsor, Jenny Willment, missed her stride approaching the gate. "I saw a long one [stride] but she didn't," McAuley said.

They survived the mistake to join 14 others in the jump-off, including Great Britain's Olympic contender, Michael Whitaker, on his Foxhunter champion, Ashley, and the European champion, Peter Charles, of Ireland, on Dolly.

Whitaker, who will ride his Olympic reserve horse, Midnight Madness, in the Barbour Grand Prix on Sunday, incurred four faults at the first part of the double. Monica Campbell, a former winner of the ladies' national championship, then achieved the first clear round on Sky High over Jon Doney's shortened course — but in the sedate time of 51.16 seconds. Emma-Jane Mac, who defends her ladies' national title tomorrow, then produced the fastest round of the competition on Gringo, but paid the penalty with four faults.

Results **44**

McAuley, advised by her sister and trainer, Catherine, not to go too quickly "but to get on a rhythm and stay on it", did as ordered. Equity, who was bought from Belgium 3½ years ago because of her jumping ability, finished clear, more than 11 seconds inside Campbell's time.

With James Fisher, the winner last year, deciding not to over-extend his new horse, Pinion Voici, McAuley's main challenge came from the in-form Guy Goosen, on Carat, and Charles. Goosen failed to match McAuley's time, finishing more than a second slower, and Charles dropped out of contention after a mistake at the first fence.

McAuley, who will ride Equity again in the ladies championship tomorrow, was, in common with many of the riders, full of praise for the going in the main arena that has in the past been the bane of the organisers' life.

The arena is used by the local rugby club until April 1 and the horse show then has four weeks to prepare ground fit to withstand the rigours of displays by the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, as well as providing perfect footing for the showjumpers. "It's been watered for the last fortnight and we've left a thicker covering of grass than usual," Michael Bullen, the chairman of the show, said.

He had a more perplexing problem to cope with yesterday. The Portuguese carriage drivers competing in the Harrods driving grand prix, which starts today, arrived with a huge articulated lorry that did not fit into the parking space by the castle mews. They were asked to move it to the Home Park. A torrent of Portuguese poured forth, and much gesticulating, before their problem was understood. They had brought their own Portuguese beef with them — already marinated — and there was no power point to plug in the freezer. A party was swiftly dispatched to find a generator.



McAuley shrugs off an early mistake at the Royal Windsor Horse Show yesterday to secure her victory in the Grade A Castle Stakes. Photograph: Julian Herbert



Threesome decline to represent England

By Richard Eaton

ENGLAND'S three most successful badminton players have caused a controversy by refusing to play for their country in the Thomas and Uber Cups world team finals in Hong Kong in a week's time because they prefer to prepare for the Olympic Games in Atlanta in July and August.

Julie Bradbury, Joanne Wright and Simon Archer are all capable of becoming the first British players to win an Olympic medal for badminton — but their refusal to play in the sport's pre-eminent regular event with the Games two months away is a result of one of the most bizarre conflicts of interest to blight the sport.

Bradbury, Wright and Archer, all ranked in the top six in the world in doubles events, believe that the best way to counter the Asian threat in a sport in which physical fitness is an important ingredient, is to prepare for as long as possible. But their failure to win a gold medal in last month's European championships indicated that high-level competition might be as important a priority.

Their decisions take place against a background of weeks of disagreement between the British Olympic manager, Andy Goode, who supports the players' point of view, and the England manager, Ciro Ciniglio, who believes that the conflict of interest is one of the most important issues facing the sport.

"I am very disappointed," Ciniglio said. "The same situation must not be allowed to happen in the future. The main problem arises from the fact that we have an England team manager and an Olympic team manager with different goals."

Now three youngsters — James Anderson, Nathan Robertson and Emma Chaffin — have been drafted into a squad which may struggle to win a single match in the Thomas and Uber Cup finals.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 42

GROYNE

(a) This is the correct term for one of those wooden fences or brick walls that run down English beaches and out into the water for some distance, as a device for preventing the drifting of the sand. Pronounced, and sometimes spelled, *groin.* **"Shall we get together then, down by the groyne?"**

PERNOCTATION

(b) In ecclesiastical jargon, an all-night vigil. From the Latin *per* **through +** *nox, noctem* **the night. Literally, passing the night.** *Compernoctation* **is thus a useful neologism for spending the night together.**

ONEIRODEINIA

(c) A nightmare, from the Greek for a nasty dream. "If it turns out to be a girl, have you thought of giving her one of those mellifluous ancient Greek names? Nausicaa, say. Or Antigone? Or Oneirodeinia?

KIPPAGE

(a) Commotion or confusion. "Rest assured, Mrs Foster, that little Sasha will be quite safe on the school excursion. We don't just put them on the school bus and hope for the best, you know. We have teachers who are specially trained in kippage and riot control skills to go with them."

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هكذا من الأصل

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Breadwinning, housework and fair shares

In ancient times, when men were men and women were dragged around by the hair, nobody from the media came by the cave to ask the women if they were content to clean loincloths by *beating them against stones on the riverbank*. Or to steam fillet of *grizzly bear over burning logs* to satisfy the Great Hunter when he returned.

Some of the reasons for this are called the vacuum cleaner, the washing machine, the dishwasher and the disposable nappy. Before these innovations, men were content to give the impression that they were far too busy working or inventing golf to dabble in domestic science.

The arrival of mechanised housekeeping and the evolution of television brought, at first, television documentaries featuring smiling "housewives" lauding these fantastic inventions (or bribes: men were the inventors) which had enabled the women to finish the housework in time to go next door for coffee with another woman who had finished the housework.

Then, in the recent past, two women called Margaret Thatcher and Germaine Greer, with naught in common bar gender, helped create an economy in which the old employment certainties vanished plus a social order in which women are aware that there is more to life than housekeeping, should they so wish.

And television, having ignored the plight of women chained to a sink, now discovers role reversal: heavens above, the men are washing the dishes (or switching on the dishwasher)! The women have gone to work! Pick up thy camera and zoom in.

Modern Times: Househusbands (BBC2) took three households in which the man is left holding the baby. Jon Gullis used to be a builder, but we know what happened to that trade. His wife, Tracey, is sales director of Fabergé and drives to work in a Merc.

David Tierney used to work on oilrigs but when his wife, Agnes, had an extremely difficult birth at the age of 41 she found herself unable to look after the baby. So David stayed at home: "I used to walk up the road with one hand on the pram, as if it was nothing to do with me, but that wore off."

No doubt the contentment of men to stay at home and the fact that running a house is now so much easier is merely a coincidence, but is the arrival of the househusband a sea change or a temporary fad in which necessity has mothered invention? One suspects the latter.

Tracey Gullis had this to say: "Perhaps I'm an inverted sexist. To me, men should be building or tilling the soil and for me this [childcare] is a natural extension of that, there's something very basic about looking after the family."

Possibly so, but Tracey also said this: "Jon seems to have two options: one is he looks after the baby and the other is he has a rest. My options are, I work or I look after the baby. I don't seem to get much down time."

Interestingly, Jon has adapted to childcare in rather fundamental ways. Given a break to celebrate a friend's birthday in Hong Kong, Jon takes the trip but constantly rings up to ask about his daughter. He arrives back with a suitcase full of baby clothes.

REVIEW



Peter Barnard

The most vivid clue to the underlying tensions in this situation was provided by Nick and Clare Athorne. Nick was made redundant from a bank so Clare — after 20 years at home — had to work. She is not happy. Nick is adversely compared with Clare's father: "I had that feeling of being safe around my father but I don't feel safe with Nick at the moment."

Role reversal has fundamentally changed the Athornes relationship. They have become "friends" but "other aspects" of their relationship "have gone". Clare was brought up to believe that a man would look after her. One felt she was speaking from the secret heart: perhaps not just her own.

The old order changeth in other ways and **Postcards from the Country** (BBC2) promises to be an enlightening series, taken overall. Taken on the basis of its first episode, it was not much more than a reminiscence for village life long gone.

This series ought to be compulsory viewing for politicians, who spend their working lives cloistered in Westminster and their holidays abroad. As a result, they treat farmers as a protected species and villages as living theme parks. Richard Mabey is the writer and narrator and last night the focus was Chelsfield in Kent, a county whose villages once had everything from shops to telephone exchanges ("It's no good ringing him, he's out").

Paradoxically, given that rural buses are now commoner on postcards than on four wheels, the coming of the bus was the beginning of the end of the integrated village. Buses took people to other villages and towns, widening their social and working horizons.

Kent used to be the Garden of England, but the garden has shrivelled. Hops are not the only product in decline: in 1950, Kent produced 15,000 tons of cherries, now the figure is 3,000. But flexible minds show signs of survival.

Whereas charcoal used to be in demand for hop kilns, the shrinkage of the hop industry has meant the creation of a lucrative niche market: charcoal for domestic barbecues. Thus has the invasion of villages by the commuting middle classes created its own market.

The trouble is that these invaders lack a natural affinity with their new environment. They tut-tut about the decline of fruit-growing but would strangle anybody who shot a bullfinch. Last night we learnt that two bullfinches will strip an apple tree of buds in 20 minutes. Work that one out.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (38267)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (69538)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Ceefax) (4622083)
9.20 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (7735644)
9.45 Kilroy (s) (6069286)
10.30 Good Morning with Anne and Nick (s) (19064)
12.00 News (Ceefax) regional news and weather (1045354)
12.05pm Going for a Song (s) (5287286)
12.35 Going for Gold. General knowledge quiz with the affable Henry Kelly (s) (4777606)
1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (62625)
1.30 Regional News and weather (62957880)
1.40 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s)
2.00 The Flying Doctors (16606)
3.30 Playdays (r) (s) **3.50 Peter Pan and the Pirates** (s) (2724489) **4.10 The Wizard of Oz** (Ceefax) (s) (5073286) **4.35 The Boot Street Band** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (2093170)
5.00 Newsround (Ceefax) (7452002)
5.10 The Ant and Dec Show (Ceefax) (s) (6301809)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (482793)
6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) (977)
6.30 Regional News magazines (557)
7.00 Top of the Pops (Ceefax) (s) (4204)
7.30 EastEnders (Ceefax) (s) (441)
8.00 Wildlife on One: Lost Lakes of the Pacific — a Dive into the Unknown. An underwater action adventure in the tropical Pacific. Narrated by David Attenborough (Ceefax) (s) (6064)
8.30 Airport. (2/6) Documentary series behind the scenes at Heathrow airport. At dawn, Bill Clinton emerges from his plane surrounded by bodyguards and the press. Within three minutes he has gone. Meanwhile, at Terminal 1, Sid Oliver arrives in his Sierra. Twelve hours later, he is still there. At the same time in Terminal 3, customs officer Gareth Powell thinks he has caught a drug smuggler (Ceefax) (s) (5199)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax) regional news and weather (8538)
9.30 Absolutely Fabulous: Morocco. Edina, Patsy and Saffron go to Morocco for a fashion shoot. With Jennifer Saunders, Joanna Lumley (r) (Ceefax) (s) (60170)
10.00 Making Babies. Series about Britain's busiest IVF clinic at London's Hammersmith Hospital run by Professor Robert Winston (Ceefax) (s) (878996) **NORTHERN IRELAND: 10.00** Spotlight **10.30** Making Babies **1.20** Question Time **12.20am** Film: Comes a Horseman **2.15** Weather
10.50 Question Time from Edinburgh. The guests are MPs Iain Duncan Smith, Mo Mowlam, Sir David Steel and Margaret Ewing. (Ceefax) (2295915)
11.55 FILM: Comes a Horseman (1978) with James Caan and Jane Fonda. Western about two honest and hard-working Montana ranchers who join forces to fight off an evil, land-grabbing baron. Directed by Alan Pakula (790335)
1.45am Weather (3301403)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. Videoplus+ (™), Pluscode (™) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

BBC2

6.00am Open University: The All-Electric Home (7317644) **6.25 The Birth of Modern Geometry** (7396151) **6.50 Engineering Mechanics** (5329644)
7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (4717712)
7.30 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (r). (Ceefax) (73731) **8.00 Blue Peter** (r). (Ceefax) (s) (7475118) **8.25 Brum** (r) (5436731)
8.40 The Record (s) (8937793)
9.05 Daytime on Two: The Biology Collection (7712793) **9.30 Techno** (5891286) **9.45 Writing and Pictures** (5889441) **10.00 Playdays** (2390847) **10.25 Storytime** (2401996) **10.45 Science Zone** (1660335) **11.05 Space Ark** (9889016) **11.15 Landmarks** (3977373) **11.35 Landmarks — Tudors and Stuarts** (8772828) **12.00 Shakespeare — the Animated Tales** (27977) **12.30pm Working Lunch** (55248) **1.00 Lifeschool** (31432880) **1.25 Revista** (65185489) **1.45 Numbertime** (62974557)
2.00 Brum (r) (44967977)
2.10 The Andrew Neil Show (s) (7229064)
3.00 News (7072880) **3.05 Westminster with Nick Ross** (9661489) **3.55 News** (6123354)
4.00 Today's the Day (s) (170) **4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook** (s) (354) **5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show** (s) (4622847)
5.40 The Sky at Night (r). (Ceefax) (s) (944118)
6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (Ceefax) (s) (840170)
6.45 The O Zone. Pop magazine (s) (450915)
7.00 Waiting for God (r). (Ceefax) (s) (8286)
7.30 First Sight: Heathrow, We Have a Problem. The implications of Heathrow's ambitions to build a fifth terminal. **NORTHERN IRELAND:** An Droichead: **WALES:** Homeland; **EAST:** Matter of Fact; **MIDLANDS:** Midlands Report; **NORTH, NORTH-WEST, NORTH-EAST:** Close Up North; **SOUTH:** Southern Eye; **SOUTH-WEST:** Close Up; **WEST:** Close Up West (593)
8.00 CHOICE Secrets of the Paranormal (Ceefax) (s) (4606)
8.30 Top Gear. Jeremy Clarkson drives the Ferrari F50 — a snip at £350,000 (Ceefax) (s) (6441)
9.00 CHOICE The Travel Show (s) (9880)



Michael Elliott on Europe (9.30pm)

9.30 CLASSIC The Poisoned Chalice (Ceefax) (s) (909170)
10.20 Close Up. Michael Winner selects the battle scene from Olivier's *Henry V* (r) (s) (411248). Followed by **Weather**
10.30 Newsnight with Jeremy Paxman. (Ceefax) (556422)
11.15 Late Review (s) (171915)
12.00 The Midnight Hour with Trevor Phillips. Political chat show (s) (45478)
12.30am-6.00 The Learning Zone: Open University (46107)

CHOICE

Secrets of the Paranormal: Ghost Rescue *BBC2, 8.00pm*

Lance Trendall has a theory about ghosts. He thinks they are often souls lost in a limbo between life and death. When they cause bumps in the night, or whatever, it is their way of trying to get attention. So Trendall and his wife, Alli, try to make contact with these unhappy beings and convince them that they are really dead. They can then be reunited with their family and friends and people who have died before them. Loving ghosts is far better than trying to exorcise them. The Trendalls are ready for the doubters. They cannot prove that ghosts exist but this will not stop their "rescue" work. Their approach seems to work for four young men who have had very strange happenings in the house they share. Since the Trendalls called, furniture has stayed in the same place and no more bottles have come flying down the stairs.

The Travel Show
BBC2, 9.00pm

For 14 years *The Travel Show* has been trying to get behind the brochure hype and present holiday destinations, snags and all. If the beach is dirty and five miles from the hotel, this is the programme to say so. As an antidote to the more soothing visions of Jill Dando and Judith Chalmers, *The Travel Show* has had a valued place in the canon of television holiday coverage. Three items kick off the new series, hosted as usual by Penny Junor. In the celebrity guest slot, Dermot Morgan of *Father Ted* removes his dog collar to check out the new hotels and bars of Dublin. Jon Futrell reports from Big Island, Hawaii, which both exemplifies and challenges the tourist clichés of the South Pacific. And a newcomer to the series, Sophie Campbell, does her best to say something fresh about Venice and almost succeeds.

Witness: Trying Tadic
Channel 4, 9.00pm

Dusan Tadic, karate teacher, cafe owner and policeman, is the first man since the Second World War to face an international war crimes tribunal. He is accused of being implicated in an orgy of violence at the Omarska detention camp in northwest Bosnia in 1992. Belinda Giles's thoughtful film, which includes contributions from Tadic's family, former neighbours and alleged victims, is an attempt to place him in the wider context of the Bosnian tragedy. While not trying to minimise the enormity of the crimes, it asks whether Tadic is being made a scapegoat. It questions whether a small fish is being made to carry the guilt of much bigger ones. And it wonders whether, having already been condemned by the media, Tadic can have a fair trial.

The Poisoned Chalice: A Kind of Betrayal
BBC2, 9.30pm

The unhappy story of Britain's relationship with Europe is told in a four-part series, crisply linked by the journalist Michael Elliott. Euro-scepticism was there from the start. As one veteran diplomat says, we have either patronised the Europeans or been scared by them. We sent only a minor official to the Messina conference which set up the European Economic Community. The Treaty of Rome was signed without us. When Harold Macmillan belatedly decided that Britain should join, he was humiliatingly rebuffed by President de Gaulle. Meanwhile, political parties were split, Labour under Gaitskell just as much as the Conservatives, and reputations damaged. Thanks to the recollections of key figures, notably Sir Edward Heath, the whole sorry tale comes depressingly to life.

Peter Waymark

ITV

6.00am GMTV
9.25 Supermarket Sweep (s) (7710335)
9.55 Regional News (Teletext) (2377996)
10.00 The Time . . . the Place (s) (6612373)
10.35 This Morning (50044267)
12.20pm Regional News (Teletext) (1041538)
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News and weather (Teletext) (4796731)
12.55 Shortland Street (s) (4771422)
1.25 Coronation Street (r) (Teletext) (1097373) **2.00 Home and Away** (Teletext) (s) (19962199)
2.25 FILM: Always Remember I Love You (1990) with Patty Duke and Stephen Dorff. Conclusion of yesterday's film. Directed by Michael Miller (2/2) (7235625)
3.20 ITN News headlines (Teletext) (7089170)
3.25 Regional News (Teletext) (7088441)
3.30 The Riddlers (r) (8180581) **3.40 Wizadora** (r) (s) (1426422) **3.50 Rupert** (2700809) **4.15 Samson Superslug** (Teletext) (s) (5067625) **4.40 Crazy Cottage** (Teletext) (s) (2474286)
5.10 A Country Practice (9954083)
5.40 ITN News and Weather (Teletext) (215118)
5.55 Your Shout. Viewers' views (103335)
6.00 Home and Away. Are Steven and Selina becoming attracted to one another? (r) (Teletext) (s) (488538)
6.25 Regional News (Teletext) (639151)
7.00 Emmerdale. Kim shares an intimate meal with Frank but finds his ultimatum hard to digest (Teletext) (s) (5712)
7.30 3-D. Presented by Julia Somerville. (s) (809)
8.00 The Bill: Cold Feet and Hot Coffee. Loxton and Page have to go undercover at a wedding (Teletext) (4460)



Feline would-be film star (8.30pm)

8.30 Hollywood Pets. This week's programme looks at the star-struck ambitions of pet owners who want their animals to perform (Teletext) (s) (5557)
9.00 Ellington: Getting Rid. Ellington and Ben try to sort out the debts of a compulsive gambler (Teletext) (s) (6538)
10.00 ITN News at Ten and weather (Teletext) (48460)
10.30 Regional News (Teletext) (764064)
10.40 How Time Flies. Bruce Hocklin reviews his career (Teletext)(s) (756335)
11.40 Hunter: Crime of Passion (539915)
12.40am Carnal Knowledge (9724855)
1.40 Not Fade Away (s) (1511774)
2.35 Shift (5203687)
3.35 Late and Loud (r) (s) (1198107)
4.30 The Time. . . The Place (r) (s) (70749)
5.00 Garden Calendar (r) (48652)
5.30 ITN Morning News (39861) Ends at **6.00**

As HTV WEST except:
6.25pm-7.00 Wales Tonight (639151)
7.30-8.00 Trains (809)
10.40-11.10 Welsh & Wealthy (594731)
11.10 Hunter (358977)
12.10am 3-D (4874126)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.25pm-12.30 My Story (1059557)
12.55 Emmerdale (4771422)
1.25-1.55 Cross Wits (31444625)
1.55 Home and Away (39726538)
2.25 Entertainment Today (19965286)
2.55-3.20 A Country Practice (6722170)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (9954083)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (50793)
10.30 Westcountry News (788644)
10.45 The LADS (625335)
11.15 Tales from the Crypt (622248)
11.45 Prisoner Cell Block H (888793)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.55 Home and Away (4771422)
1.25 Cross Wits (31444625)
1.55 A Country Practice (69499996)
2.20 Entertainment Today (19966915)
2.50-3.20 High Road (2580915)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (9954083)
6.25 Central News and Weather (496557)
6.55-7.00 Lite Line (259373)
10.40 London Bridge (594731)
11.10 Revelations (121335)
11.40 Bodies of Evidence (539915)
2.35am Shift (5203687)
3.30 Customs Classified (3871300)
4.15 Jobfinder (6989584)
5.20 Asian Eye (3115584)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
12.55pm Emmerdale (4771422)
1.25 Home and Away (31444625)
1.55 Shortland Street (69499996)
2.20 Entertainment Today (19966915)
2.50-3.20 Surprise Chefs (2580915)
5.10 Home and Away (9954083)
5.37-5.40 Crimestoppers (123199)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (373)
6.30-7.00 Grass Roots (625)
10.40 Film: My Blue Heaven (33981967)
12.40am Phoenix (9724855)
5.00 Freescreen (48652)

S4C

Starts: 6.35 The Adventures of T-Rex (5333847) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (52248) **9.00 The Pink Panther** (7748118) **9.25 Film: King Solomon's Mines** (8936070) **10.50 The Gallery** (4674267) **11.00 Wild India** (84847) **12.00 House to House** (45373) **12.30pm Hullabalioo** (73644) **1.00 Slot Meithrin** (1076880) **1.35 Land Above the Trees** (39731460) **2.00 Bush Tucker Man** (9538) **2.30 Channel 4 Racing From Chester** (34373) **4.30 The Lonely Planet** (422) **5.00 5 Pump Uned 5** (3118) **5.30 Fifteen to One** (642) **6.00 Newyddion** (637880) **6.15 Heno** (388915) **7.00 Pobol Y Cwm** (786248) **7.25 Corws** (957489) **8.00 Defir Teli** (2002) **8.30 Newyddion** (8809) **9.00 Pris Y Farchnad** (7880) **10.00 Karaoke** (5178248) **11.05 Film: Near Dark** (110915) **12.50am Dispatches** (3978577)

6.35am The Adventures of T-Rex (r) (5333847)
7.00 The Big Breakfast. With Larry Clark, director of *Kids*, Wesley Snipes, Woody Harrelson (52248)
9.00 The Pink Panther (s) (7748118)
9.25 FILM: King Solomon's Mines (1938, b/w). Haggard's classic African adventure, with Cedric Hardwicke as Allan Quartermaine, leading a group seeking Solomon's diamond mines. Directed by Robert Stevenson (8936070)
10.50 The Gallery. Short drama about a pickpocket and a poor artist, with Helena Bonham-Carter and Tony Robinson (4674267)
11.00 Wild India (r) (Teletext) (s) (57809)
12.00 House to House (58663)
12.30pm Sesame Street (71489)
1.30 Hullabalioo (r) (72915)
2.00 Bush Tucker Man. The Wildman area of Australia (r) (s) (9538)
2.30 Channel 4 Racing from Chester. The 2.40, 3.10, 3.40 and 4.10 races (s) (34373)
4.30 Fifteen to One with William G. Stewart (s) (Teletext) (422)
5.00 Ricki Lake: Mom, Don't Beg, I Won't Come Home. Mothers desperate for their children to return home (Teletext) (s) (1043644)
5.45 Terrytoons (205731)
6.00 NBA 24/7. Basketball action (915)
6.30 Roseanne (r) (Teletext) (s) (267)
7.00 Channel 4 News. (Teletext) including headlines and weather at 7.30 (661480)
7.50 The Slot. Members of the public air their views (342098)
8.00 Wild Britain: The Old Man of the Woods or, to give it its Gaelic name, the capercaillie (Teletext) (s) (2002)
8.30 The Real Holiday Show presented by Gaby Roslin Stuart and Susan Marsh drive with their four children from Lancashire to Biarritz; Peter and Karen O'Connor and their two children are on a Lake District campsite, and two women sample Goa (r) (Teletext) (s) (8809)



Dusan Tadic and family (9.00pm)

9.00 CLASSIC Witness: Trying Tadic (Teletext) (s) (7880)
10.00 NYPD Blue: Girl Talk. The squad are after a child rapist and killer (Teletext) (s) (510460)
10.55 Whose Line Is It Anyway? (r) (Teletext) (s) (350335)
11.30 Rory Bremner — Who Else? (r) (s) (37441)
12.10am Is This Your Life? Ian Botham talks to Andrew Neil (r) (Teletext) (9402768)
12.55 Dispatches (r) (Teletext) (1215120)
1.45 FILM: Mortgage (1989) A young couple decide to buy a home of their own in Australia. Directed by Bill Bennett (493590). Ends at **3.25**

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday

SKY ONE

7.00am Undun (77354) **8.30** What-A-Mess (61335) **9.00** Press Your Luck (8467511) **9.20** Love Connection (9857118) **9.45** The Oprah Winfrey Show (46231[illegible]) **10.40** Jeopardy! (9014083) **11.10** Sally Jessy Raphael (3162644) **12.00** Beechy (12557) **1.00pm** Hotel (98977) **2.00** Geraldo (69064) **3.00** Court TV (1151) **3.30** The Oprah Winfrey Show (3051183) **4.15** Undun (7537809) **5.00** Star Trek (5731) **6.00** The Simpsons (9422) **6.30** Jeopardy! (3002) **7.00** LAPD (6460) **7.30** M*A*S*H (9266) **8.00** Through the Keyhole (2880) **8.30** Animal Practice (1915) **9.00** The Commish (48996) **10.00** Star Trek (41083) **11.00** Melrose Place (25118) **12.00** Late Show with David Letterman (2162923) **12.45am** Civil Wars (9206749) **1.30** Anything But Love (72720) **2.00** Hit Mix (9263749)

SKY NEWS

News on the hour
8.30am Beyond 2000 (76170) **10.30** ABC Nightline (72441) **1.30pm** CBS News (51373) **2.30** Parliament Live (2574335) **3.15** Parliament Live (2650248) **6.30** Tonight with Adam Boulton (51489) **7.30** Sportsline (49828) **8.30** Reuters Reports (8557) **11.30** CBS Evening News (26118) **12.30am** ABC World News Tonight (18010) **1.30** Tonight with Adam Boulton Replay (14585) **2.30** Reuters Reports (32590) **3.30** Parliament Replay (48107) **4.30** CBS Evening News (53942) **5.30** ABC World News Tonight (71861)

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Build My Gallows High (1947) (63235) **8.00** . . . **and God Created Woman** (1956) (83644) **10.00 Following Her Heart** (1994) (19758) **12.00 Howard: A New Breed of Hero** (1986) (73267) **2.00pm Oh God! Book II** (1980) (32335) **4.00 The Long Ride** (1984) (7335) **6.00 Following Her Heart** (1884) (44579977) **7.40 US Top Ten** (8304221) **8.00 Clean Slate** (1994) (57644) **10.00 Alistair Maclean's Death Train** (1994) (5899956) **11.40 Gunmen** (1994) (158460) **1.15am The Innocent** (1994) (6140403) **2.45 The Crush** (1993) (7828749) **4.10 Back in Action** (1994) (3864403)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm The Damned Don't Cry! (1950) (14128880) **5.45 The Train** (1964) (33994977) **8.00 Witness** (1985) (39286) **10.00 Marathon Man** (1976) (65351151) **12.10am To Be or Not to Be** (1983) (915565) **2.00-3.35 It Lives Again** (1978) (902039)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am They Knew What They Wanted (1940) (61267) **8.00 Sinbad** (71098) **9.00 Beauty and the Beast** (1992) (23847) **10.00 Back to the Beach** (1987) (96880) **12.00 To Hell and Back** (1955) (71809) **2.00pm Tripoli** (1950) (30877) **4.00 Sinbad** (30489) **5.00 Beauty and the Beast** (1992) (8441) **6.00 Shepherd on the Rock** (1994) (43441) **8.00 Undercover Blues** (1993) (78441) **9.30 The Movie Show** (97536) **10.00 The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert** (1994) (547016) **11.45 Night Eyes** (1990) (155373) **1.20am My Life** (1993) (803279) **3.20 Without Warning: Terror in the Towers** (1993) (845565) **5.00 Ben-Hur** (1998) (54297)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold takes over from 10pm to 4am.
8.00am The Muppet Babies (92690996) **8.30** Ducktales (36037644) **7.00** Quack Attack (87915977) **7.30** Rescue Rangers (87927712) **8.00** Darkwing Duck (50755996) **8.30** Wonderland (50754267) **9.00** Lamb Chop (50778847) **9.30** Fraggle Rock (54319625) **10.00** The Muppet Babies (36028996) **10.30** Pooh Corner (50767731) **11.00** Under the Umbrella Tree (97161890) **11.30** Dumbo's Circus (97179809) **12.00** Walt Disney Presents (54309248) **1.00pm** FILM: The Horse in the Grey Flannel Suit (36049489) **3.00** Ducktales (47754139) **3.30** Quack Attack (45785002) **4.00** Rescue Rangers (45771809) **4.30** Darkwing Duck (45760793) **5.00** Boy Meets World (47759644) **5.30** Danger Bay (45784375) **6.00** Tarzan (45781288) **6.30** Dinosaurs (45772538) **7.00** The Toxicologers (47739880) **7.30** Tall Tales and Legends (28604460) **8.30** Entertainment Special Burt Lancaster (85404118) **9.30-10.00** Dinosaurs (94309977)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Motors (28847) **8.30** Football (24199) **10.00** Formula 1 (39647) **10.30** Motorcycling Magazine (44793) **11.00** Live Tennis (3019151) **5.00pm** Football (3915) **6.00** Boxing (71335) **7.00** Aerobics (73606) **8.00** Pro Wrestling (82354) **9.00** Tennis (84278) **10.00** Boxing (72977) **11.00** Formula 1 (46064) **11.30** Sailing (28731) **12.00-12.30am** Motorcycling Magazine (10774)

SKY SPORTS

7.00am Inside the PGA Tour (52256) **7.30** Wrestling — Superstars (93151) **8.30** Racing (79489) **9.00** Aerobics (53441) **9.30** Finish Line (60460) **10.00** Super League Special: Wigan v Bath (87295) **12.00** Aerobics (40977) **12.30pm** The Pavilion End (74246) **1.30** Inside the PGA Tour (52927) **2.00** Ford Scorpio PGA European Tour Golf: Spanish Open (832002) **5.00** Wrestling — Action Zone (8847) **6.00** Sky Sports Centre (908002) **6.05** Futbol Mundial (662538) **6.05** Formula Three Racing (119847) **7.00** The Winning Post Sedgfield and Hamilton (32422) **9.00** Boots 'n' All (77423) **10.00** Sports Centre (446809) **10.15** Trans World Sport (212170) **11.15** Formula Three Racing (819712) **11.45** Futbol Mundial (818083) **12.15am** Boots 'n' All (139107) **1.15** Trans World Sport (2315[illegible]) **2.15-2.30** Sports Centre (9682519)

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00pm Stiff Sailing (44663731) **7.30** Ford Scorpio Golf USA: Painewebber Invitational Seniors Golf (2169248) **9.00** US PGA Golf: GTE Byron Nelson Classic (97382671) **11.00** European PGA Golf Tour Spanish Open (9359847) **12.30-1.00am** Stiff Sailing (7765519)

THE CHRISTIAN CHANNEL

4.00am Thought for the Day **4.05** Worship **4.15** Kids TV **4.30** Carman Times Two **5.00** Voice of Victory with Kenneth and Gloria Copeland **5.30** Christian Music TV **5.45** This is Your Day with Benny Hinn **6.15** Living Word **6.45-7.00** Good Morning Europe

SKY SOAP

7.00am Guiding Light (8558915) **7.55** As the World Turns (26652265) **8.50** Peyton Place (78390007) **9.20** Days of Our Lives (1651122) **10.10-11.00** Another World (4709977)

SKY TRAVEL

11.00am Globetrekker (6347892) **11.30** Great Sports Vacations (6858529) **12.00** Flight of an Angel (7374915) **12.30pm** Bruce and Bob Eat America (3520880) **1.00** Getaway (4361278) **1.30** Around the World (3529151) **2.00** Hymns of Nature (part II of III) (3533511) **3.00** Globetrotter (4441064) **3.30** Around the World (7195248) **3.55-4.00** Holiday Shop (99437002)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Our Century (6861460) **5.00** Memories of 1970 (44656644) **6.00-7.00** Biography: Houdini (3545199)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

1.00am The Six Million Dollar Man (9219039) **2.00** FILM: The Aliens Are Here (2314478) **3.30-4.00** Inside Space (4652584)

TLC

9.00am Simply Painting (1820915) **9.30** Grow with Joe (7852536) **10.00** Dunbar (5722151) **10.30** Our House (1826199) **11.00** Room for Improvement (6381880) **11.30** Craftshop (6399802) **12.00** Julia Child (1850151) **12.30pm** Frugal Gourmet (7555554) **1.00** Yan Can Cook (7697847) **1.30** Furniture (7855625) **2.00** Our House (1004656) **2.30** Garden Show (1054793) **3.00** Screaming Reels (1036441) **3.30-4.00** This Old House (1066538)

UK GOLD

7.00am Rentaghost (7657606) **7.30** Neighbours (7679441) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (1809422) **8.30** EastEnders (1806793) **9.00** The Bill (1822373) **9.30** The Sullivans (7854996) **10.00** All Creatures Great and Small (7675625) **11.00** Bullseye (8390538) **11.30** Gibberish (7513828) **12.05pm** Sons and Daughters (55429199) **12.30** Neighbours (7858712) **1.00** EastEnders (5239828) **1.35** Sykes (3103624) **2.15** Brush Strokes (7884731) **2.50** Butterflies (9375606) **3.20** The Bill (1068996) **4.00** Minder (6314118) **5.00** Every Second Counts (7819286) **5.45** Allo 'Allo! (6317118) **6.25** EastEnders (4378644) **7.00** The Two Ronnies (2238977) **8.00** Bullseye (1046828) **8.30** Home James (1025335) **9.00** Minder (2267489) **10.00** The Bill (4991809) **10.35** Bottom (9619373) **11.10** The Sweeney (2448731) **12.15am** Classic Sport (1502749) **1.10** Public Eye (9429768) **2.05-3.00** Shopping (9825565)

TCC

6.00am Swan's Crossing (78335) **6.30** Degrassi Junior High (98267) **7.00** Ready or Not (28354) **7.30** California Dreams (47489) **8.00** Byker Grove (79606) **8.30** Halfway Across the Galaxy and Turn Left (29147) **9.00** Pink Panther (97809) **9.30** Garfield (34828) **10.00** Eek the Cat (10847) **10.30** Creepy Crawlers (86793) **11.00** Casper (32183) **11.30** Dinobabies (82642) **12.00** Tiny TCC (29183) **12.30pm** Tiny TCC (10064) **1.30** Sesame Street (11793) **2.30** Tiny TCC (6267) **3.00** Eek (8825) **3.30** Pink Panther (3192) **4.00** California Dreams (9847) **4.30-5.00** Byker Grove (8731)

NICKELODEON

6.00am Dungeons and Dragons (65847) **6.30** Galaxy High School (11441) **7.00** Mr Men (4024083) **7.05** Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (3378793) **7.45** Rugrats (5887441) **8.00** Doug (4565793) **8.15** Aaahh!!! Real Monsters (4589644) **8.30** Rocko's Modern Life (60731) **9.00** Biker Mice from Mars (51083) **9.30** Pet Shop (98002) **10.00** Bananas in Pyjamas (5437170) **10.05** Bananas in Pyjamas (5436441) **10.10** Baber (9774996) **10.35** Topsy and Tim (7460977) **10.40** Barney (7490118) **10.45** Bananas in Pyjamas (7498480) **10.50** Bananas in Pyjamas (7470354) **11.00** Children's BBC (48083) **12.00** Magic School Bus (71847) **12.30pm** Grimmy (51278) **1.00** Denver the Last Dinosaur (59199) **1.30** Visionaries (74149) **2.00** Littlest Pet Shop (6002) **2.30** Children's BBC (89286) **3.00** Teenage Turtles (4998) **4.00** The Ferals (6731) **4.30** Rugrats (4371793) **4.45** Doug (4376248) **5.00** Sister Sister (7354) **5.30** Clarissa (3267) **6.00** Alex Mack (3880) **6.30-7.00** Are You Afraid of the Dark? (7460)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Time Travellers (1078373) **4.30** Human/Nature (1074557) **5.00** Deep Probe Expeditions (1027793) **6.00** Charlie Brave (1055422) **6.30** Beyond 2000 (5143809) **7.30** Mysteries . . . (1075286) **8.00** The Professionals (2245267) **9.00** Top Marques (6301644) **9.30** Disaster (7876118) **10.00** Chrome Dreams (3268118) **11.00-12.00** Murder (7674996)

BRAVO

12.00 Robin Hood (1804977) **12.30pm** William Tell (7843880) **1.00** Jason King (7848935) **2.00** Department S (5737608) **3.00** The Saint (6380151) **4.00** FILM: Little Lord Fauntleroy (1034083) **6.00** The Green Hornet (1059248) **6.30** Department S (5130335) **7.30** Weekly World News (1062712) **8.00** Planet of the Apes (2232793) **9.00** Twin Peaks (2252557) **10.00-12.00** FILM: A Nymphoid Barbarian Dinosaur Hell (6389422)

PARAMOUNT

7.00pm Different Strokes (7118) **7.30** Entertainment (3644) **8.00** Due South (95826) **9.00** Soap (47793) **9.30** Taxi (89354) **10.00** Fraser (49248) **10.30** The Cal Block (53373) **12.30am** Soap (46382) **1.00** Taxi (20300) **1.30** Laverne and Shirley (23478) **2.00** Entertainment (23519) **2.30** The Critic (39126) **3.00** Dr Katz (98836) **3.30-4.00** Rocky and Bullwinkle (20478)

UK LIVING

6.00am Kilroy (8589118) **7.00** Esther (5237712) **7.30** Young and Restless (9126444) **8.30** Going to Pot (6503880) **9.00** Health (6159151) **9.35** Kate and Allie (3165606) **10.00** Entertainment (5647170) **10.05** The Jerry Springer Show (2844002) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (7302422) **11.55** Brookside (6016544) **12.30pm** Dangerous Women (7318460) **1.25** Catchword (9419731) **2.00** Agony Hour (5315064) **3.00** Live at Three (6599793) **4.00** Intatuation UK (9904977) **4.30** Crosswits (2219489) **5.05** Lingo (15035248) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (9917441) **6.00** Bewitched (9914354) **6.30** Ready, Steady, Cook (9905606) **7.00** Brookside (2921128) **7.35** Joker's Wild (7792480) **8.00** Street Legal (1074064) **9.00** FILM: Women of Valour (72733847) **10.55** Entertainment Now (1839847) **11.00-12.00** Sex Files 1 (5246480)

FAMILY CHANNEL

5.00pm Boogies Diner (3170) **5.30** Night Hood (9083) **6.00** Batman (6896) **6.30** Catchphrase (7248) **7.00** Trivial Pursuit (6426) **7.30** Me and the Boys (9480) **8.00** The Bederbecke Affair (31844) **9.00** The Ruth Rendell Mysteries: A Guilty Thing Surprised (11880) **10.00** Treasure Hunt (21267) **11.00** Neon Rider (37002) **12.00** Trivial Pursuit (63836) **12.30am** Me and the Boys (26958) **1.00** Batman (45126) **1.30** All Together Now (66294) **2.00** Big Brother Jake (63107) **2.30** Neon Rider (25294) **3.30** All Together Now (66294) **4.00** Tr

Turmoil overtaking English rugby

RFU reaching the point of no return

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE Rugby Football Union (RFU) has seldom been as isolated as it is now. At odds with the leading English clubs, riven with internal dissent, it has now been excluded from the other home unions' discussions over next year's broadcasting rights and, when those discussions resume next Wednesday, will meet an unrivalled air of hostility.

Scotland, Ireland and Wales, together with France, met in London on Tuesday evening to co-ordinate their response to an offer made to each individual union by BSkyB — the satellite television company that is 40 per cent-owned by News International, owners of *The Times* — to screen the five nations' championship. England were not invited and when they do attend Wednesday's scheduled meeting of the five nations' television committee, they will be told they must either make common cause with their colleagues or risk exclusion from the 1997-98 championship.

The RFU has enough fences to mend already. Its representatives are due to meet those of the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs (EPRUC) this morning, accompanied by John Jeavons-Fellows, from their television committee, to try to find a way out of the impasse between them.

Scotland, Ireland and Wales resent England acting independently in pursuit of a greater percentage of television money. On Wednesday, the other unions hope a document of tender, agreed by all countries, can be drawn up for broadcasters, otherwise they will reiterate their threat to drop international fixtures with England at all levels.

The danger to England is more widespread than that, however: despite all protestations that the five nations' championship is the jewel in the northern-hemisphere crown, their unilateral action not only places a question mark over the tournament's future but over the whole range of "products" it has to offer. Martin Bayfield, the Northampton and England lock, spoke plainly of the possibility of a breakaway "England" team.

"The RFU have to be very careful they don't take away from the players their aims and ambitions," he said. "If someone turned round to me and said that I couldn't play five nations' rugby any more, then someone said they were setting something up whereby we could play and which was recognised by the other unions, then I would play for them."

The possibility of an EPRUC "England" XV playing the official XVs of the other unions after next season (when the existing television contract runs out) is not so outlandish as it might once have appeared.

The situation is muddied still further by the campaign to add the five nations' championship to the list of sports guaranteed terrestrial coverage in the Broadcasting Bill now going through Parliament. That is in line with the demands of the RFU's own constituent bodies but not with the RFU's advisers, its clubs or, indeed, the other home unions who do not wish to preclude Sky.

Only through the cash available from satellite television can the clubs envisage the effective funding of a professional game: "If the five nations' were listed that would mean the unions could not guarantee us money for our competitions and that's the one scenario when we believe the clubs would have to break away," Donald Kerr, the EPRUC chairman, said.

A further warning was sounded by Malcolm Wall, the managing director of Anglia television, on behalf of ITV. "I don't believe every broadcaster will hang around and wait for the sport to sort out its differences," he said.

ITV's sports management group meets next Monday to discuss the confusion surrounding next season's European tournament, from which the English and Welsh clubs have withdrawn because they disagree with its structure. ITV have a three-year sponsorship deal in place but that is dependent upon English and Welsh participation.

All these issues are inextricably linked: television wants the five nations', which, in the event of the RFU sticking to its guns, could turn out to be a different competition involving, say, Italy but not England. On the back of the five nations' can be sold the club game but neither England nor Wales can agree an appropriate format for that.

Neil Back, the Leicester flanker, must face a Rugby Football Union disciplinary hearing as a result of the incident during last Saturday's Pilkington Cup final against Bath when the referee, Steve Lander, was pushed over.

Letters, page 43
Super 12 success, page 43



Rathore, a little-known member of the India party, enhanced his prospects of a Test place by scoring 165 at New Road. Photograph: Ian Stewart

Rathore upstages India's big guns

BY MICHAEL HENDERSON

WORCESTER (First day of three; Indians won toss): Worcestershire, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 331 runs behind the Indians

DRIVING down from the Malvern hills in early summer, with the morning mist evaporating, birdsong in every tree, and hope of finding cricket to match this most English of settings, is an exile's dream. Worcester Cathedral, scaffolded as ever, peeps over the ground, a symbol of the eternal, in contrast to that "promised kiss of springtime", first-class cricket.

A goodish crowd gathered yesterday to see the Indians bat for most of the day against some modest Worcestershire bowling. By tradition, the opening day at New Road marks the start of all tours, introducing unknown players and reminding people of the dimly remembered. It was chilly, but they were not bothering about that. Most of them stayed for the day and enjoyed what they saw.

In the modern world of communications, one does not often encounter a player who is largely unknown. Not many knew anything about Vikram Rathore before yesterday and, if he does not achieve anything else on this tour, he can at least dream sweet dreams of his century here.

Rathore (pronounced Ratord, apparently) has captained India A and took his chance in Sharjah last month, making a half-century against South Africa. He owes his place on this tour to Prabhakar's retirement from international cricket after his disastrous World Cup, and the dropping of Kambli for disciplinary reasons. Given an opportunity to show his worth, he has taken it at the first opportunity.

As Tendulkar scratched his way to 52 and Azharuddin played some glittering strokes in making 68, the bearded Rathore batted through five hours for his 165 until he tried to pick up Sheriyar square of the wicket and gave Curtis a catch at long leg. He had hit 26 boundaries, none more emphatic than the one down the ground off Illingworth that brought up his hundred.

Rathore had his moment of luck early in the day when he edged Lampitt to Hick at second slip as Peter Willey, the umpire, was calling no-ball. Lampitt enjoyed no luck at all in that first spell. Rhodes somehow dropped the most straightforward nick off Jadeja and Tendulkar pulled high to mid-on, where Sheriyar never looked like catching it.

Sheriyar, the left-arm seam bowler who left Leicestershire last season, had taken the wickets of Jadeja and Manjrekar by then, so he was in credit. Too much of the bowling was undemanding, so that Moody turned to Leatherdale and Hick before tea. Lampitt's mood would not have been improved by Leatherdale's success after tea, when Azharuddin, attempting a hit to leg, played around a straight ball.

The India captain, of course, does not feature among the ranks of the unknown and dimly perceived. At his best, there is no more delightful batsman in the world, although there was nothing particularly delightful about the way he belted Hick for three sixes, one straight and two to leg. He was lucky, too, missed at short mid-wicket by Spiring when he was eight, though it was a hard chance, low to the fielder's right as he dived.

Together with Rathore, Azharuddin made 121 for the fourth wicket after the opener had put on 124 with Tendulkar, who was never at his most fluent. Too often he was "into" the stroke before the ball was there to hit. On another day some of his strokes would have found fielders.

There were some handsome drives through cover, naturally, and, on the firmer pitches he can expect to play on later, there will be many more handsome strokes to admire. After Lara's brilliance last summer, is such expectation crying for the moon?

SCOREBOARD

INDIANS: First Innings*

V Rathore c Curtis b Sheriyar	165
A D Jadeja c Rhodes b Sheriyar	22
S V Manjrekar c Spiring b Sheriyar	0
S R Tendulkar c Leatherdale b Thomas	52
*M Azharuddin b Leatherdale	68
S Ganguly not out	19
†N R Mongia not out	11
Extras (lb 3, w 1, nb 8)	12
Total (5 wkts dec)	349

A Kumble, P Mhambrey, Venkatesh Prasad and N D Hirwani did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS 1-57, 2-63, 3-187, 4-308, 5-327

BOWLING: Sheriyar 22-3-64-3; Thomas 23-6-89-1; Lampitt 18-4-70-0; Illingworth 15-2-52-0; Leatherdale 7-0-34-1, Hick 7-0-37-0.

WORCESTERSHIRE: First Innings

T S Curtis not out	11
W P C Weston not out	4
Extras (lb 1, nb 2)	3
Total (no wkt)	18

G A Hick, *T M Moody, D A Leatherdale, R K Spiring, †S J Rhodes, S R Lampitt, R K Illingworth, P A Thomas and A Sheriyar to bat

BOWLING: Venkatesh Prasad 3-0-9-0; Mhambrey 3-1-8-0; Kumble 1-1-0-0.

Umpires: D J Constant and P Willey.

Venables picks England's path through chaos and confusion

BY ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

IT IS heaven and hell down at Lancaster Gate these days. With one month to go to the kick-off of Euro 96, the biggest and most profitable event England has staged for 30 years, there is confusion about some of the men who will run the European championship finals and some intended to play in them.

Terry Venables, the England coach, was expected yesterday to provide clarity about the shape of his final squad. Instead, he named 26 players for the match against the faded Hungarians at Wembley next Wednesday, a squad that could yet be reduced by one third if Liverpool and Manchester United require a replay to settle the FA Cup Final on Saturday. In addition, there is Paul Gascoigne, unavailable next Wednesday because of the Scottish Cup Final, Gary Pallister and Steve Howey, centre backs who are granted more time to prove their fitness, though that bemuses Pallister who is at present girding his loins for the Cup Final. With the five stand-by players, among them Stan Collymore, there appear still to be 34 players vying for a place in the final squad of 22.

At least it appears good news that Tony Adams, Darren Anderton, Gareth Southgate and Alan Shearer are all recalled after injury absences; key men returning sounder in mind and limb than if they had slogged through the 50 and more games of an English season.

Adams was last night playing in his first public match, the Paul Merson testimonial at Highbury, since his knee-cartilage operation in mid-January. Anderton had already re-emerged, looking as fresh as a colt after his debilitating fight against injuries stretching back to September. Vital men, both, in the eyes of the national coach.

If some of the other inclusions in the squad to meet Hungary are to be genuine contenders for next month, then it would make sense if Ian Walker, Philip Neville and Sol Campbell are all given a game, for what can be the purpose of handing valuable places to performers who have had absolutely no experience at international level?

Similarly, it seems strange to some in the North-East that Nick Barmby, struggling for form for months, retains a favoured place at the expense of Collymore, whose understanding with Robbie Fowler has been rapacious. But Venables, like all of us, has his favourites, and one of them, Dennis Wise, was cute enough this week to suggest that the Chelsea management vacancy ought to go to his England "gaffer", Venables.

That should keep Wise on board the plane for China and Hong Kong, where England are due to play two more internationals, a junket too far, perhaps, the week after the Hungary match. Venables returned from Peking still unable to guarantee that the match in the Workers' Stadium will go ahead. The pitch, responsible for a broken ankle when the Arsenal goalkeeper, David Seaman, played there a year ago, still requires improvements and Venables will dispatch his assistant, Ted Buxton, for a further inspection next week.

At least no one will be able to blame the man who set up that tour, Trevor Phillips. He resigned abruptly on Tuesday from his post as the Football Association's commercial director — and so the head of a crucial department in running Euro 96, the man also responsible for selling the FA Cup to sponsorship, has gone. He left without public word of explanation; Lancaster Gate still offered none yesterday.

So, the Football Association meanders towards its finest hour with no head of the commercial department, with no successor to Charles Hughes as director of coaching and education . . . but with two fully-paid coaches of the national team. Venables will see his team through to the end of their European campaign and Glenn Hoddle, on the payroll from June 1, will spend the championship moonlighting for ITV.

To cap all of that, there is no indication of who will be the new head of the organisation when Sir Bert Millichip retires in June. He, no doubt, is hearing words even now from Church leaders offended by the Littlewoods poster campaign depicting the Cup Final as "heaven and hell".

SQUAD

D Seaman (Arsenal), T Flowers (Blackburn Rovers), I Walker (Tottenham Hotspur), G Neville (Manchester United), R Jones (Liverpool), A Adams (Arsenal), M Wright (Liverpool), G Southgate (Aston Villa), S Campbell (Tottenham Hotspur), S Pearce (Nottingham Forest), P Neville (Manchester United), P Ince (Internacionale), D Platt (Arsenal), R Lee (Newcastle United), J Redknapp (Liverpool), D Wise (Chelsea), S McManaman (Liverpool), J Wilcox (Blackburn Rovers), D Anderton (Tottenham Hotspur), S Stone (Nottingham Forest), P Beardsley (Newcastle United), N Barmby (Middlesbrough), A Shearer (Blackburn Rovers), E Sheringham (Tottenham Hotspur), L Ferdinand (Newcastle United), R Fowler (Liverpool).

Stand-bys: D James (Liverpool), A Wright (Aston Villa), U Ehiogu (Aston Villa), T Sinclair (Queens Park Rangers), S Collymore (Liverpool)

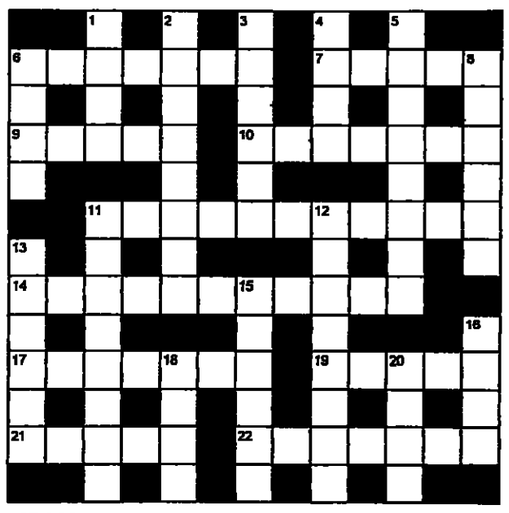


Anderton: vital to England in the eyes of the coach

United prepare, page 44

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

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ACROSS
6 Legislative enactment (7)
7 Dutch bulb (5)
9 Conspirator (*Julius Caesar*): sounds like *evildoer* (5)
10 Inviolable retreat (7)
11 Part (eg of tool) that works, moves (8,3)
14 Old Communist/free-world frontier (4,7)
17 Cul-de-sac (4,3)
19 V-shaped block (5)
21 Happen again (5)
22 Bring to face indictment (7)

DOWN
1 Make a profit (4)
2 Age of the dinosaurs (8)
3 Add flavour: time of year (6)
4 Knock senseless (4)
5 Slovenly woman (8)
6 Unwell (4)
8 Perfumed oil for hair (6)
11 Ability to float, rise (8)
12 1980s US space defence program (4,4)
13 Ancient Greek ode-writer (6)
15 Incitement (esp. to bull) (3,3)
16 Plant producing fronds, spores, no flowers (4)
18 Jane —, married Mr Rochester (4)
20 Raised platform (4)

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Name/Address .....

.....

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DOWN: 2 Rector 3 The pools 4 Raked 6 Holm 7 Waxing 8 Andrew 13 Go native 14 Modest 16 Ageism 17 Potent 19 Cyrus 21 Toil

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